



# THE INDEPENDENT

No. 3,728

MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 1998

(50p) 45p

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IN THE MONDAY REVIEW

# Left's NEC victory deals blow to Blair

TONY BLAIR suffered his biggest setback since becoming Labour leader last night as left-wingers captured four seats on the party's ruling body, the National Executive Committee (NEC).

The result of the ballot among Labour's 380,000 members was a clear warning to Mr Blair that he could not take the support of his party for granted, and that many activists have reservations about his New Labour "project".

As first predicted in *The Independent* two weeks ago, the left won four of the six seats representing constituency parties on the NEC. To Mr Blair's embarrassment, the winners included Liz Davies, a former Islington councillor, who was barred as parliamentary candidate in Leeds North East because of her hardline views.

Left-wingers were jubilant when the results were announced during the opening session of Labour's annual conference in Blackpool. Three other members of their Grassroots Alliance were elected to the NEC: Mark Seddon, editor of *Tribute* newspaper, who topped the poll; Cathy Jamieson, a leading Scottish activist, and Pete Willsman, a former ally of Tony Benn.

The only members of the Blairite Members' First slate to be successful were Michael Cashman, the actor and gay rights campaigner and Diana Jeuda, an official with Udsaw, the shopworkers' union. The left slate won a total of 342,000 votes, while the Blairites managed only 311,000.

The results, due to be announced on Wednesday, were rushed out last night in an attempt to stop Mr Blair's looming defeat casting a shadow over the conference and his keynote speech tomorrow.

But the left could win another victory on Wednesday, when Dennis Skinner, the left-

BY ANDREW GRICE  
Political Editor

wing MP for Bolsover, may retain his place on the NEC despite moves by Blairite MPs to replace him.

Privately, Mr Blair's allies admitted he had been given a "bloody nose". One said: "We pulled out all the stops and we still lost 4-2. There is no point in pretending it's anything other than a bad defeat."

But his aides insisted Mr Blair would still enjoy a commanding majority on the 32-member NEC and that there would be no change in the party's direction.

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The Prime Minister sought to defuse grassroots criticism of his leadership by holding a question-and-answer session when the Labour conference opened yesterday. But he told the delegates bluntly that the party had won its landslide victory last year because he had modernised it. "We forget why we won, and we go back to square one again," he said.

Mr Blair faced other problems yesterday as a potentially difficult conference got underway. A Cabinet split emerged over whether Labour should renew its pledge not to increase income tax rates at the next general election.

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about a generational change. I stand for economic stability and development ... and continuity in foreign policy," he proclaimed, adding that his priority would be the "battle against mass unemployment".

In Britain, senior Labour Party sources said last night that Mr Schröder is expected to attend Tony Blair's speech at the Labour Party conference in Blackpool tomorrow.

Mr Kohl, chancellor for the past 16 years, conceded defeat just an hour after the polls closed. "There is nothing to discuss about this defeat," he said at the headquarters of his Christian Democratic Union. "The Social Democrats have won the elections."

With that, he also announced his resignation as chairman of his party.

Although the winners and losers were easy to identify, great uncertainty remained

the Social Democrats would

win around 336 of the 656 seats in the Bundestag. The Christian Democrats and their Bavarian allies, the Christian Social Union, were heading jointly for 244 seats.

If it does, the Red-Green coalition might be robbed of its majority, and Mr Schröder would have to open coalition negotiations with the leaderless Christian Democrats.

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Financial panic is akin to viral disease, easy to pick up, difficult to shake off; [and] you cannot keep a virus offshore for long. Page 4

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Behind a facade of slogan and public relations posturing, the Blair government has become a bastion of secrecy no different, if not more sinister, than the Tories. Page 4

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Recycled paper made up 46.03% of the raw material for UK newspapers in 1997

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WE LEAVE EVERYONE STANDING BUT YOU

# Curfew scheme for young a success

BY CATHY COMERFORD

of the initiative which was initially attacked by some civil rights groups as an infringement on civil liberty.

"This initiative continues to draw support from the local communities who have welcomed the results achieved so far in terms of improving the quality of life and reducing the fear of crime," he said.

"We are currently awaiting the publishing of academic research conducted by Stirling University before deciding whether to extend the scheme."

Strathclyde Police said officers would be prepared to liaise with any police force considering setting up similar schemes.

According to police estimates, juvenile crime has been cut by more than 30 per cent and the number of complaints about youth disorder has almost halved since the scheme's introduction.

It was introduced in the Whitehill, Fairhill and Hillhouse estates in Hamilton on the back of a rising trend of street disturbances caused by youngsters, and growing concern about crime amongst residents.

Under the initiative, teams of police officers patrol the streets from 7.30pm, targeting children under the age of 16.

Children who are found wandering can be escorted home or taken to a special safe room at the police station.



Painter Frank Windas makes an adjustment to the weather vane on the 85ft high Happisburgh lighthouse on the east Norfolk coast which he has spent six weeks repainting. The 108-year old lighthouse is maintained by villagers Steve Hill

# Priest found killed at home

BY CATHY COMERFORD

A ROMAN CATHOLIC priest was found dead at his home in the West Midlands after he failed to turn up to say Mass yesterday morning.

Police launched a murder inquiry after the body of Fr Paul Orchard was found at his presbytery in Brandhall. No details of how the 80-year-old cleric died were issued, but Superintendent Bob Baxter said that a man was in custody helping with inquiries.

Fr Orchard was found by police who had to break into the house yesterday morning at about 9am. The alarm was raised by parishioners who grew anxious when he did not appear at the Church of Our Lady and St Hubert to say morning Mass.

Church-goers were still trying to take in what had happened yesterday as the news spread that the well-liked priest who had been in the parish for 10 years had died.

Parishioner Marie Neary, 41, said: "We are all very shocked. Father Orchard had been the priest here for about five years.

"He was a nice, very private man and he was still very sprightly for his age.

"There have been a number of break-ins recently and the collection box was taken. He was probably viewed as being fair game because he was an old man living on his own.

Fr Orchard is understood to have been a late convert to Catholicism. He lived alone in the small presbytery which is joined to the large church by a roofed corridor in which it is believed the body was found.

About 50 parishioners waited outside the priest's home while police broke in.

Child  
pick

# Turn-of-the-century 'has-beens' make a come-back

**FIRST NIGHT**

BROADBEATH SINGERS AND WINDSOR SYMPHONY  
THE GREAT HALL, ETON COLLEGE

ONE BLESSING of the Arts Council is its willingness to pour taxpayers' money into new work by older and younger composers. The chief bugbear is that the policy has led to neglect of others deemed past their "sell-by" date.

The freedom of post-modern musical idioms seems to be encouraging a rethink. The BBC has partially addressed this with Nicholas Kenyon's "Fairest Isle" and George Benjamin's "Sounding the Centu-

ry" theory. Yet the Arts Council contributes precious little to these neglected areas of our musical heritage.

Spare a thought for the Broadbeath Singers, under their capable conductor Robert Tucker, who have just mounted, in Eton's College Hall, a programme of veritable turn-of-the-century musical has-beens.

Montague Phillips's *The Death of Admiral Blake* (Cromwell's scourge of Royal-

ist, Dutch and Spaniards), despite its admirable orchestra, by William Llewellyn, remains essentially an "compania" piece, underlined by Sir Henry Newbolt's parodic dactylic verse and the thud-thud of a trigger-happy tuba, somewhat over-obsessive in the clipped Eton acoustic.

posed after his *Hiroshima* trilogy, is a gorgeous mazurrama straight out of Scott of Ten-nyon (in fact by the Scottish poet Robert Buchanan), a humdrum of a narrative about shipwreck, every ounce as heart-wrenching as *The Cruel Sea*, and easily rivalling those magnificent early Elgar cantatas.

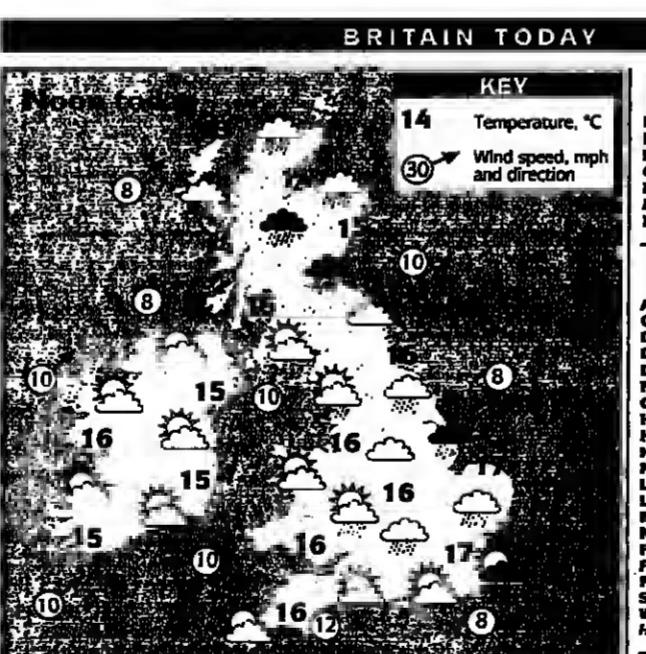
Coleridge-Taylor's father hailed from Sierra Leone: even in 1900 a black composer could cut a triumphant swathe through the English es- tablishment. Take heart, Brixton and New Cross.

What other choral society has the nerve to mount concerts of this daring?

The performances weren't quite impeccable but Tucker directed with intelligence and insight.

Down with the Arts Council's wretched, hackneyed "criteria". It is time this kind of important "revival" received the support it deserves.

RODERIC DUNNETT

**YESTERDAY EXTREMES**

Winnipeg, Canada 20°C (68°F)

Coldest: (day) Shetland 12°C (54°F)

Warmest: High Wycombe 1.96ins

Summet: High Wycombe 7.5 hrs

For 24hrs to 2pm Sunday

Sun Rain Max

hrs In °C °F

Aberdeen 0.0 0.12 14 57

Edinburgh 4.1 0.01 17 63

Glasgow 2.7 0.0 16 61

Birmingham 0.4 0.01 18 64

Bristol 0.3 0.33 17 63

Burnley 0.8 0.20 15 59

Cardiff 0.2 0.0 16 60

Chester 8.0 0.0 17 65

Croyde 5.8 0.0 17 63

Dartmouth 0.0 0.01 17 63

Edinburgh 0.0 0.01 17 63

Exeter 0.0 0.24 17 63

Falmouth 0.7 0.24 18 66

Festockton 4.8 0.01 19 66

Glasgow 0.0 0.01 19 64

Gloster 1.0 0.01 18 64

Hove 0.0 0.54 18 64

Ideas-of-war 1.5 0.01 17 63

Inverness 0.0 0.34 17 63

Jarrow 1.4 0.14 19 63

Kent 0.0 0.01 17 63

Lerwick 0.0 0.01 11 52

London 0.0 0.01 22 72

Lowestoft 7.5 0.0 19 66

Manchester 1.4 0.01 17 63

Moray 1.3 0.0 17 63

Newcastle 1.1 0.01 13 55

Newquay 0.0 0.01 17 63

Nottingham 7.9 0.0 22 72

Orford 0.0 0.04 19 66

Roseberry 0.0 0.38 17 63

Salcombe 0.0 0.01 17 63

Scarborough 0.0 0.01 17 63

Sheffield 4.0 0.0 21 70

Southport 5.9 0.0 14 57

Swansea 0.0 0.27 18 64

Torquay 0.0 0.28 17 63

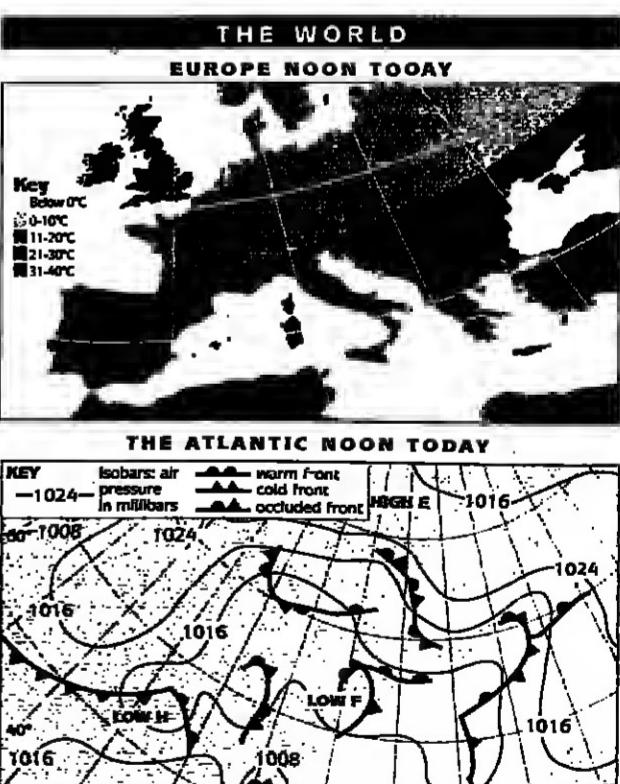
Weymouth 0.0 0.67 18 64

Wirksworth 0.0 0.0 17 63

Worthing 0.0 0.0 17 63

Wynyard 0.0 0.0 17 63

Zetland 0.0 0.0 17 63



Priest found killed at home

# Children as young as five suffer in picking fruit for our orange juice

By PHIL DAVISON in São Paulo,  
KATHERINE BUTLER in  
Brussels and STEVE BOGGAN

**CHILDREN** as young as five are being used to pick oranges that end up as juice on British breakfast tables.

Welfare groups and unions in Brazil, the world's biggest exporter of frozen concentrated orange juice, say 150,000 children work as pickers for up to 12 hours a day in extreme heat during the six-month picking season.

They travel one hour each way by lorry, perched on orange boxes. Many have been killed when trucks have run off the road. Others are injured falling off stepladders used to reach the higher fruit. Many get scarred from crawling on their knees to pick fallen oranges.

Their health and education suffer and their hands are often dyed green by the acidity of the fruit and the pesticides sprayed over orange groves.

Britons spend £450m on orange juice each year. Most of it comes from Brazil. The UK is the country's fourth-largest customer. The main British importers forbid the use of child labour by their suppliers, but a complicated production, export and import chain from orchard to supermarket shelf makes it impossible to prove which juice came from which orchard, so some juice sold in the UK will inevitably have come from fruit picked by children.

Last year, 14,200 tonnes of frozen concentrated juice was imported directly from Brazil. Much more is routed through the Netherlands and stored in huge "tank farms" before being shipped to Britain. The Netherlands received 263,000 tonnes from Brazil last year, a large proportion of which ended up in Britain.

British importers insist that their suppliers employ no child labour; but welfare groups believe that some Brazilian exporters turn a blind eye to their suppliers' methods.

The Brazilian government is working hard to eradicate the problem. Major producers in the São Paulo region have signed up to an initiative to stop using children. However, even they admit that 92 per cent of farms are small family enterprises, which often employ entire families, including young children, over which they have no or no control.

Brazilian groups opposed to child labour say the country's economic crisis means that even more children may be forced to work, to augment the



Third World, First World: a Brazilian child gathers the fruit that ends up as juice on a British family's breakfast table  
Maria Luiza Carvalho, John Lawrence



family income. They believe that at least 3.8 million children aged between five and 14 are working in Brazil, in agriculture - cutting sugar cane, picking cotton, coffee beans or oranges - and in quarries, mines, char-

coal processing sites and the footwear industry.

Ernesto Giusti, of the Central Unica dos Trabalhadores (CUT), the Brazilian equivalent of Britain's TUC, told *The Independent*: "When our re-

presentatives try to inspect the production zones, the farm guards get in touch with each other by walkie-talkie, call the orchard and tell the children to hide or take a walk. If they're just walking in the fields, you

can't say that they're working."

A major problem is that "seals of approval" given to orange juice cans or cartons in Brazil state that "this company is a friend of the child" are not used on exported products. "There is no way to distinguish between a company that respects the law and one that doesn't," Mr Giusti said.

The British Soft Drinks Association, which represents the UK's main importers, including Schweppes, Britvic, St Ivel, Del Monte and Gerber, says its members have ethical buying policies that demand no child labour is used. They deal only with Brazilian companies affiliated to ABECitrus, the Brazilian Association of Citrus Exporters, which has developed a code of conduct. Its members insist on contractual agreements with the farmers

from whom they buy stating that children shall not be used in picking fruit. The processing companies have introduced welfare schemes and set up schools to keep children out of the fields.

But poor families and unscrupulous gangmasters still use children. Cases have been reported of youngsters being refused identity cards because acid from the fruit has eroded their fingerprints.

"When you see them in the fields, their hands are green and it doesn't wash away," said Mr Giusti. "That's partly from the fruit, but partly from the toxic products sprayed on the oranges. Often, the fruit is sprayed even while the children are working. The skin gets badly scarred. Their fingers are almost disfigured.

"You've got to remember

have the situation under control. But the crisis could drive more kids back to work."

He added: "We can't be absolutely certain that the situation is clean. Two months ago, two or three kids were found working in a camp to pick oranges for a big company. When it came out, the producer, Citrovita, was ostracised. They kicked out their local middlemen and said they wouldn't let it happen again."

Trade unions in Australia have this week picked up on the issue, after campaigning from their Brazilian counterparts. "There is no question that child labour is extensively used in the high season," said Max Ogden of the Australian Council of Trade.

The International Confederation of Free Trade Unions in Brussels has launched an investigation on forced labour (including child labour) throughout the Brazilian economy. The aim will be to gather enough film and documented evidence to pressure the EU to withdraw trade preferences from Brazil.

Christopher Burton, chairman of the Juice Importers' Association, said Brazil's producers had made vast improvements in the welfare of children in recent years. "They are spending considerable amounts of money to improve the situation," he said.

He agreed that many families took their children picking with them. "You have to look at it in the context of the country," he said. "The parents, often desperately poor, have to work to make a living. What are they supposed to do with the children? This is a country with seven million street children. It is much better that the children of these workers are with them than walking the streets."

"I have seen children out with their families, but certainly not carrying out heavy work or being treated badly."

Pedro Borio, chief of staff to Eduard Amadeo, the Brazilian Minister of Labour, said he found CUT's claim that 150,000 children were working as "hard to believe. A lot of work has been done by the government with the producers and workers' representatives and I am absolutely confident not just that it is working, but that it has worked," he said.

Sainsbury's and Tesco said they operated ethical policies that included demanding their suppliers did not use child labour. They said they would take action if any of their suppliers was found to be employing children.

<b>CRASH</b>	Two cars collide <i>head-on</i>
<b>BANG</b>	One engine shunted <i>backwards</i>
<b>WALLOP</b>	towards passenger compartment
<b>WOW</b>	A-class engine disappears <i>downwards</i> into hollow sandwich floor
<b>PHEW</b>	Safety cell remains intact



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# World In Action's £2m libel pay-out

GRANADA WILL today make one of the biggest libel settlements in legal history when it issues a full apology in the High Court to three police officers wrongly implicated in a *World In Action* programme covering up a murder.

The settlement, to include £100,000 to each Metropolitan Police officer and their costs of £1.2m, comes after a six-year battle and six months after the programme's makers lost a £1m libel action brought by Marks & Spencer. Combined with its own costs, Granada is set to lose £2m in total.

A spokesman for the officers' solicitors, Russell Jones and

BY DARIUS SANAI

Walker, said the men were pleased the case had concluded in their favour, but "this will never make up for the damage caused to these entirely innocent and blameless men". One of the men, Paul Giles, has since left the force, suffering mental problems and nervous breakdowns, and is unemployed and living in subsidised housing in Northern Ireland.

A Granada spokesman refused to comment but insiders confirmed it was settling the case today. It has already broadcast an apology.

The men - Mr Giles, Peter

## THE BIG WINNERS, FROM ELTON TO ARCHER

Elton John. Received £1m in out-of-court settlement with *The Sun* in 1988 after it made allegations about his sex life.

Lord Aldington, former Tory deputy chairman, won £1.5m in 1989 over claims by Count Nikolai Tolstoy that he sent Cossacks to their deaths in 1945.

Bleakley and Emlyn Welsh,

John and Jean Walker, boat designers, awarded £1,485,000 in 1994 over article in *Yachting World* attacking their boat.

reduced to £100,000.

Sonia Sutcliffe, former wife of Yorkshire Ripper Peter Sutcliffe. Won £600,000 from *Private Eye*, prompting the editor, Ian Hislop, famously to comment, "If this is justice, I'm a banana." Amount reduced to £50,000.

Jeffrey Archer, novelist and Tory peer. Won £500,000 in 1987 over allegations about his sex life in the *Daily Star*.

*The Mirror* paid £1,125,000 in damages and costs in 1996 after Anthony Percy, a neurosurgeon, brought an action relating to allegations following a patient's death.

Station at the time of the murder, vindicating their stories and casting doubt on Kennedy's evidence and the documentary. He was retired and convicted in April 1994, and next year the three officers issued a writ against Granada for libel.

Their solicitors said yesterday: "Viewers ... were left with the impression that it was a police officer who had murdered Patrick Quinn."

A source said Mr Giles initially sought more in damages than his former colleagues, believing the programme implied he had been involved in Quinn's killing. However, his mental

state has deteriorated to the extent that he would not have been able to appear in court as a witness in his libel case.

The timing of the settlement will embarrass Granada, which last month won a contract to produce a new flagship one-hour documentary programme along the lines of America's *Sixty Minutes*. Jeff Anderson, *World in Action's* editor, will oversee the new show.

Granada is believed to have won the contract for the new programme after its fierce rival, Carlton, found itself mired in a storm about the authenticity of some of its documentaries.

## Husband celebrates wife's ordination by making her bitter

BY CLARE GARNER



ordained yesterday at St Peter's, Tiverton, by the Bishop of Exeter as a non-stipendiary curate serving the parish of Rewe. The party afterwards was held at Tiverton Football Club.

But there is a godly element to the Curate's Choice. During her three-year training for the priesthood Mrs Sheppard had to undertake various practical assignments, one of which was working as part of the chaplaincy team at the Exeter Hospital.

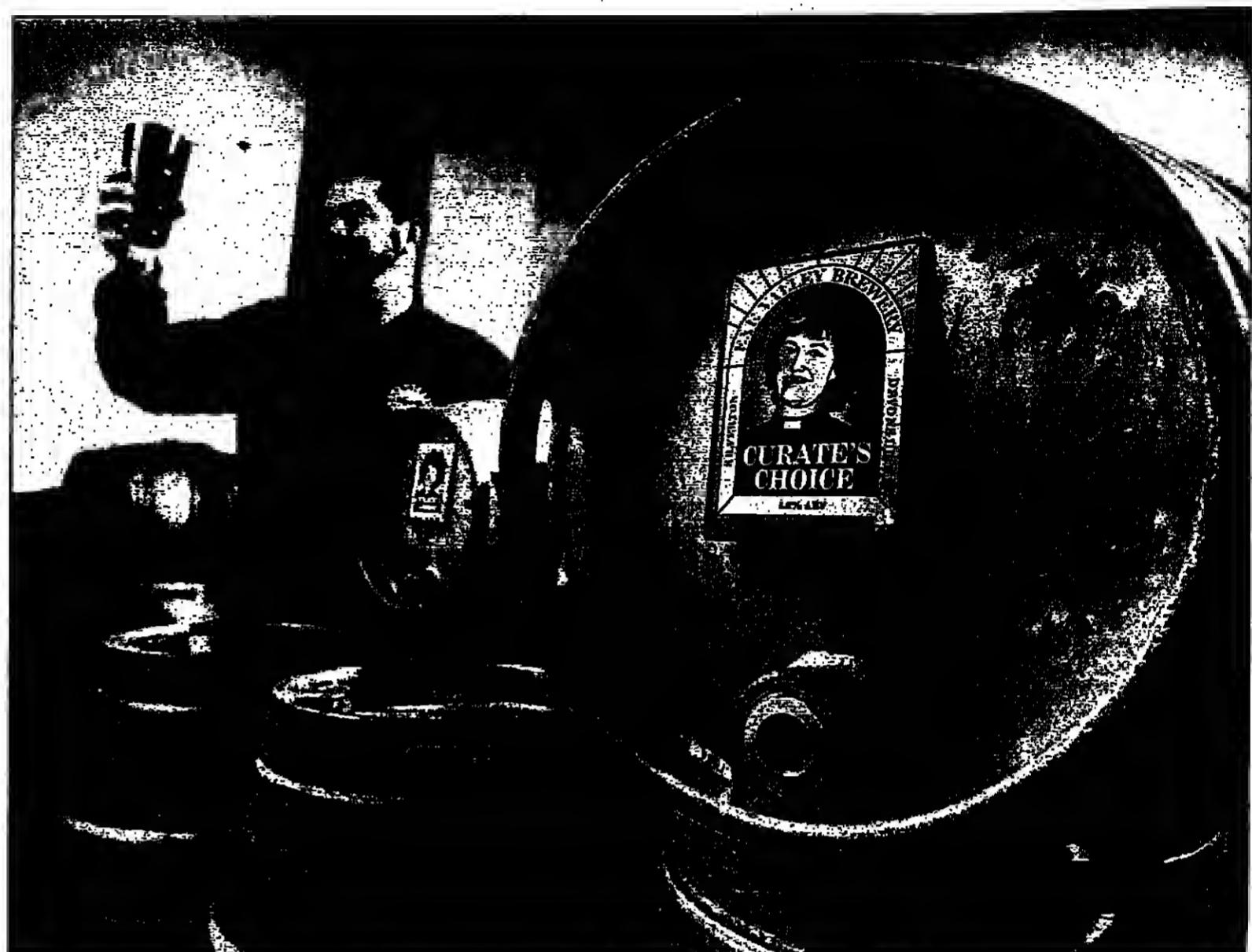
"The beer has been tailored to suit Sue's tastes," said Mr Sheppard, who co-owns Exe Valley Brewery in Silverton, near Exeter, the neighbouring parish to that of his wife. "It's strong - 4.8 per cent - which suits her palate, and it's got a full-bodied taste to it."

"We used the finest Devon malt, English hops and our own spring water. I hope we've got what she wanted."

The Sheppards dreamt up the name with various clergy over a few drinks. "It seemed appropriate, really," Mr Sheppard said. "We went through all the other ecclesiastical beers -

Bishop's Tipple, Bishop's Finger, Abbot's Ale, even deacon is already the name of a beer brewed by Gibbs Mew - so we came down to curates."

Mrs Sheppard, who was on retreat over the weekend, was



Guy Sheppard with samples of Curate's Choice, the special beer that he brewed to mark the ordination of his wife

Guy Newman

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## Disability groups angry over government reforms

BY GLENDA COOPER  
Social Affairs Correspondent

MORE THAN 80 per cent of disability groups are highly critical of the way the Government is carrying out reforms of the benefit system, according to a survey released today.

The Royal Association of Disability and Rehabilitation polled more than 100 disability organisations on the Government's performance so far on policies for disabled people such as civil rights, housing, education, benefits, health and community care.

The survey, "The Disability Audit", uncovered major criticism of the Government's actions over disability benefits, particularly their implementation of the Benefits Integrity Project (BIP) - which is examining 250,000 disabled people

sources". One respondent said "Three areas where the Government has got it wrong? BIP, BIP, BIP".

The Government has attempted to modify the policy by excluding over-65s, more training for adjudicators and ruling that people cannot lose benefit on their own evidence alone.

However, more than 40 per cent of the disability groups said the changes were poor.

Earlier this year the all-party Commons Social Security Committee said the project, set up to crack down on fraud, had been unacceptably launched, muddled in its planning, and appalling in its delivery.

Respondents to the survey described the BIP as causing "untold misery, worry and stress", and a "waste of re-

hour limit on voluntary work was excellent. While 48 per cent thought the New Deal was acceptable, 46 per cent were evenly divided on whether the policy was excellent or poor.

Ensuring comprehensive civil rights should be the focus of the Government's policies, with more than 45 per cent wanting the Government to prioritise this area. The majority approved of the setting up of the Disability Rights Task Force and the Disability Rights Commission.

The charity will discuss the findings with the Minister for Disabled People, Margaret Hodge, at a fringe meeting at the Labour Party conference tonight.

## Sales chiefs leap ahead in pay race

BY PETER CUNLIFFE

SALES AND marketing executives have overtaken their colleagues in the pay race. Their salaries now average £26,510, £1,235 a year more than those of counterparts in accounts, personnel and computing, a survey found.

Over the past year marketing staff have received inflation-beating rises averaging 6.9 per cent, said the report by The Reward Group in association with the Chartered Institute of Marketing.

"The growing importance of marketing to business success is being translated into better pay for marketers," said Steve Cuthbert, the institute's director general. "Despite recent increases, marketing salaries in the UK are still below those in Europe and the US, and therefore further upward pressure is expected."

Senior sales and marketing managers typically receive a basic annual salary of £40,000.

compared to £37,659 for those in accounts, £37,400 in computing and £35,775 in personnel.

Junior managers receive £17,051, ahead of their equivalents in other departments.

The increase in status for sales and marketing employees is also reflected in the kind of company cars they drive.

Steve Flather, managing director of The Reward Group, said: "Companies report having given marketers across-the-board increases at the annual pay round of around 4.5 per cent, just 1 per cent above the national average."

"But it would appear that the task of recruiting key marketing personnel is pushing salary levels up throughout the year."

The report also found that the salary gap between men and women at director level has widened, with male marketing directors paid 17 per cent more.

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# Player who felled referee 'deeply upset'

PAOLO DI CANIO, the Sheffield Wednesday footballer who pushed a referee to the ground on Saturday after being sent off, was planning yesterday to apologise and throw himself at the mercy of the Football Association according to his agent.

The Italian, who has been involved in controversy at most of the clubs he has played for, was suspended indefinitely by his club immediately after the incident at Hillsborough. He will be charged by the FA with gross misconduct once it receives the report on the game from the referee, Paul Alcock.

The FA's disciplinary commission has wide powers, and the least Di Canio can expect is a punishment comparable to the nine months' suspension given to Eric Cantona after his kung fu attack on a fan.

Saturday's incident occurred after a brawl in which Di Canio had become involved in a scuffle with the Arsenal defender Martin Keown. On being shown the red card, the Italian shoved the official to the ground before storming off the pitch.

The player's agent, Matteo Roggi, said Di Canio was "deeply upset" and was prepared to apologise. "At the moment we are deciding what to do," he said. "We will first let the dust settle on what has happened over the next few days. Paolo has said that he doesn't wish to speak to anybody with regard to the incidents. But he admits he is deeply upset. I feel sure Paolo will decide to issue an apology shortly and we will have to see what happens after

By CHRIS MAUME

that. We are also waiting to hear from Sheffield Wednesday."

The FA's chief executive, Graham Kelly, would not be drawn on what Di Canio's punishment might be, but welcomed his club's decision to suspend him immediately. Danny Wilson, its manager, said no other course of action was open to it, though he would still like Di Canio to play for him.

"We cannot condone any type of incident like that let alone making contact with the referee," Mr Wilson said. "I do not know what was going through his mind. He just lost it for a split second."

"Obviously we have suspended him straight away as we felt we needed to show people we understood the seriousness of the incident. We will suspend him for as long as it takes."

"We have got to adhere to whatever the FA decide to do. Until they make their decision, we will take the right steps and we will see how things pan out. I still want to have him in the team. But it's up to the League as to when that will be."

Philip Doo, the Premier League's referees' officer, said Mr. Alcock had considered whether to continue. "He was very shocked - it is something you don't expect," Mr. Doo said. "When things like that happen you have to consider your place in the game but I am sure I will see him refereeing in the league in a couple of weeks."

Premiership referees are considering proposals to go

full-time but Mr. Doo doubted whether a professional referee could have prevented Saturday's incident.

Mr. Kelly urged Mr. Alcock not to give up. "I hope Paul is able to carry on as a top referee because one cannot allow incidents like this to affect the referees that are coming through," he said. "They get enough problems at the lower levels and when they finally make it to the Premiership they have a right to feel those kind of things are in the past and that professional players behave in a right and proper manner."

The volcanic Italian, Sport, page 26



Professional Sport

## SPORTING SUSPENSIONS

### CRICKET

In 1980, the West Indian bowler Colin Croft barged into umpire Fred Goodall following a controversial decision during a Test match in New Zealand but escaped punishment after claiming the contact was accidental. Mike Gatting merely had to apologise after his finger-jabbing confrontation with Pakistani umpire Shakoor Rana in 1987. In the present climate, a physical assault would almost certainly incur a lengthy ban.

### JUDGE AT BRADFORD

The suspension was later reduced.

### BOXING

In December 1987 light-heavyweight Bobby Frankham attacked referee Richie Davies when his fight with Bobby Sim was stopped in round one. Frankham was banned for life.

### BASKETBALL

No basketball player has attacked a referee on court since the National League was formed in 1972. But an incident similar to Di Canio's would bring a substantial fine and a lengthy ban.

### RUGBY LEAGUE

David Myers of Bradford was banned for the season after "deliberately colliding" with the referee, John Connolly, in February 1995. The Salford prop, Ian Bleasdale, was banned sine die in May 1997 for hitting a touch-

### CRICKETER COLIN CROFT

barged into an umpire

## News Release

28 September 1998

### NATWEST CASH MACHINES NOW OFFER A PERSONALISED SERVICE AND MORE...

NatWest customers now have access to an important new service which is unique in the financial services market. Personal Option is an innovative development designed to offer a more personal and streamlined service to customers who usually have the same specific requirements each time they use a cash machine. After setting up their preferred cash machine services just once, which could include cash withdrawal of a set amount, a mini-statement, a balance enquiry and receipt, customers can access their selected option at the touch of a single button whenever they visit a NatWest cash machine. This facility will soon be available at all NatWest cash machines across the country.

NatWest has installed two cash machines every day during the last year, and currently has more machines than any other bank in non branch locations such as shopping centres, railway stations, supermarkets and motorway service areas.

What's more, it's now possible for NatWest customers to pay money into their accounts at over 650 cash machines, 24 hours a day and even to pay bills simply and quickly. Another new advance gives customers the option to change their PIN whenever they want to, by selecting a new one at any NatWest cash machine.

Sue Styles, who is responsible for cash machines at NatWest said: "NatWest is committed to providing customers with a superior cash machine service. Many customers have told us that they would like a quicker, more personal service at cash machines and with Personal Option we aim to give them just that - the combination of services they choose at the push of just one button."

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More than just a bank

## Tea and garlic 'stops ulcers'

By CHARLES ARTHUR  
Technology Editor

IT MIGHT taste a bit strange, but think of the benefits: drinking tea and eating garlic should prevent you from getting an ulcer, according to two teams of scientists.

The target of the foods is *Helicobacter pylori*, a bacterium which earlier this decade was discovered to be the cause of the majority of stomach ulcers - because it burrows into the stomach lining, causing inflammation which becomes chronic and eventually causes an ulcer. Some research has also linked it to gastric cancer.

Now a Dutch team has found that garlic, especially when taken in conjunction with chemicals that reduce stomach acidity, inhibits the growth of *H. pylori*. "The concentrations of garlic required were rather low - theoretically, the antibacterial effect seems possible by eating fresh garlic," according to Dr Edward Stobering of the department of medical microbiology at University Hospital, Maastricht.

At the same time, tea is also useful for fighting infection by the bug, which is found in the stomachs of about 40 per cent

of people. According to Dr Yoshimasa Yamamoto of Showa University school of medicine, green tea contains chemicals called catechins that "show strong antibacterial activity" against *H. pylori*. "The level required for such activity ... is easily reached in the stomach after drinking a cup of green tea," he told the American Society of Microbiology's conference on antimicrobial agents at the weekend.

The application of old remedies could come in useful. Though doctors were only recently persuaded that *H. pylori* really does cause most stomach ulcers - principally by the Australian proponent of the idea drinking a glass filled with the bacterial culture - they have been quick to start using antibiotics to kill off the infection.

But that in turn has led to the rise of antibiotic-resistant strains, which means that, as Dr Stobering noted, "the antibacterial activities of other substances is interesting".

# 5,000 superteacher posts to be created

THE GOVERNMENT moved to head off conflict over classroom pay yesterday, promising to create 5,000 superteacher posts paid up to £40,000 a year.

David Blunkett, Secretary of State for Education and Employment, said the two-year programme was a goodwill gesture ahead of proposals later this year for fundamental reform of teachers' pay and conditions.

BY BEN RUSSELL  
Education Correspondent

But be warned teachers not to derail the Government's drive to raise standards by taking industrial action over the changes.

The National Union of Teachers, the largest teaching union, is on a collision course with ministers after threatening to strike over any attempt

to impose payment by results.

At a special conference at the weekend, Doug McAvoy, the union's general secretary, warned that a strike was now more likely than at any time in the past 10 years.

A Green Paper on teachers' pay, due to be published later this autumn, is expected to propose wholesale changes to pay scales, including a move away from rises linked to

experience and towards performance-related pay.

Mr Blunkett said: "I do not think it is terribly likely that teachers will be striking because they are going to be paid more and I think it will be very foolish if they damage the standards agenda and their professional standing."

"We want to sit down and talk about how to reward people with a good structure to attract

people and keep them in the profession."

He said the teaching profession had fallen behind accepted practice elsewhere in the workplace and insisted that change would come.

Mr McAvoy dismissed the offer to create more of the so-called advanced skills teachers as "a drop in the ocean".

"Five thousand out of a profession of 420,000 does not deal with the problem of teachers," he said. "Such a small number

being offered some sort of reasonable salary level does not do anything."

"It might create headlines but headlines do not deal with the problems of the teaching profession."

Teachers' leaders have expressed deep scepticism about the principle of highly paid superteachers, arguing it will split staff rooms and demoralise those excluded from the grade.

Mr Blunkett is likely to face a rough ride from union leaders when he meets them in Blackpool tomorrow.

They have been angered by the 34 per cent pay rise awarded earlier this month to Chris Woodhead, the controversial Chief Inspector of Schools.

There was also anger over government calls for pay restraint in evidence to the teachers' pay review body.

## Freed hostage tells of rape

BY MIKE BROWNHILL

CAMILLA CARR, the British aid worker held hostage for 14 months in Chechnya, has told how she was repeatedly raped by one of her captors.

Ms Carr, 40, says she suffered regular sex attacks by a masked gunman while her partner, Jon James, 38, was chained to a radiator nearby.

In an interview with the Mail on Sunday, the couple, who travelled to the breakaway republic to help set up a children's centre, said they were subjected to mock executions and beaten.

Ms Carr, who has a 12-year-old son, Ashok, said she was repeatedly raped over several months.

"The first time, I tried to resist. I said, 'No, no,' but he started hitting me around the face and neck. I thought then I had to go through it, but it would not be me he was raping. He couldn't touch my spirit."

"I believe that when the guard got to know us as people, he realised it was wrong to rape me. It stopped and he apologised to me."

Mr James said: "I could do nothing but be there for Camilla. Of course I wanted to protect her and stop her going through this – but I couldn't. It was hell."

Ms Carr described how their guards carried out mock interrogations, and on one occasion ordered them to stand against a wall at rifle-point.

She said: "I was thinking, 'Is this it?' We were prepared for death and I was shaking like a leaf and panting."

The incident ended when one of the guards' rifles jammed as he tried to pull back the bolt.

The couple, both divorcees, who met in 1995, set off for the war-ravaged country in a £500 Lada to help set up a centre for children in the capital, Grozny.

They were captured on 2 July 1997, when gunmen burst into their room.

Ms Carr, from Bath, and Mr James, from the Forest of Dean, tried to befriend their four captors, who they believed were former soldiers trying to make money out of hostage-taking. The men never revealed their faces and wore masks whenever they were near.

They said they had forgiven the men who put them through the 442-day ordeal, during which they were held in 14 locations.

The experience had brought them closer together, they said. "We were so lucky," Ms Carr said. "We were together; so we could comfort each other physically and spiritually."

The couple were freed after the intervention of a Russian businessman.



Ben James, who left his boarding school in London at 16 but couldn't join his parents in Nigeria. This is the only country I know Nicola Kurnitz

## Straw wants to deport broker who came to Britain as a child

BY IAN BURELL  
Home Affairs Correspondent

"Although I understand the regulations the Home Office has to apply, I think he should be given very sympathetic consideration."

But despite an announcement by the Government in July that all asylum-seekers who arrived in Britain before 1993 would be given leave to stay, Mr James seems certain to be deported.

A Home Office spokesman said: "The bottom line is that he is an over-stayer."

Mr James, who changed his name from Olawale Babatayo, was educated at Upper Tooting Independent High School, south London, but had leave to remain in Britain only for three years.

"I am a high tax payer, I pay my mortgage and I have not got a criminal record, but hard work and merit don't seem to count," he said. "Would they prefer I had six kids that I could not afford to support?"

During a seven-year legal

battle to remain in Britain – "the only country I know" – he has never tried to abscond and has complied fully with requirements to report monthly to the authorities. He has spent £20,000 on legal bills, fighting deportation.

Although he believes his family had political enemies, he is not an asylum-seeker. "I cannot prove that I would be shot and I am not going to start lying about it," he said.

Mr James feels that having spent all his adult life in Britain, he should be allowed to stay on compassionate grounds.

"If I had come here as an adult I could understand why they might think I had a plan to stay. But I had no choice this. I was only 14 and I didn't know what was going on."

More than 60 friends, some of whom have known "Wale" since he was 14, are cam-

paigning to persuade the Home Secretary to change his mind.

Javed Sharif, his former karate teacher, said: "In my opinion, he is a one-way person and that way is success in every part of life; he took any job necessary to pay his way. I have found him to be honest, determined but unlucky due to circumstances."

Mr James said that he is so anglicised that members of the Nigerian community in Britain do not accept him as African.

"When I lived in Nigeria as a boy I spent most of the time in boarding school," he said. "I would have no way of starting a new life there."

The Home Office spokesman said that the case had been considered at ministerial level.

"Ministers have said that although he has chosen to settle here he did not have any right to do so," the spokesman said.

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# Mother of 3 'died in tussle with WPC'

BY MOST people's standards Robert Tressie Walk, on the St Gilles estate in Lincoln, is not a nice place to live. There are more houses and flats with metal shutters than glass in the window frames. Many gardens sprout rubbish, rubble and supermarket trolleys.

Until 12 days ago, Rosemary Fyfe, 37, a mother of three, was among those who believed the estate to be safe. But Minnie, as she was known to her friends and neighbours, died after being hit in the face with a lump of wood, probably a table leg.

What makes Mrs Fyfe's death extraordinary is that the person at the centre of the investigation is a female police constable.

The officer is on sick leave while a police inquiry by another police force takes place into the circumstances of Mrs Fyfe's death. She fell to the ground after being hit once and died in front of her two youngest children, Claire, 10, and Timothy, nine.

It was the latest and most tragic event on what is considered one of two "problem" estates in Lincolnshire. Residents describe a troubled atmosphere, with groups of boys and teenagers frequently taunting the police and flouting the law.

The events leading up to the fatal moment started in a grim, predictable way. A group of young teenagers started hurling stones through the window of a house, and shouting abuse at the resident. The woman living inside responded by threatening them with a carving knife. The police were called.

The young female police constable and her male colleague were the first on the scene. A small group of adults and children gathered to watch the entertainment.

Among the crowd was a 16-year-old boy - who was well known to the police - carrying a thick piece of wood. The officer

BY JASON BENNETT  
Crime Correspondent

ers attempted to handcuff and arrest the teenager, provoking anger among the residents.

More people came out of their homes to watch, including Mrs Fyfe, who was well known for her "loud mouth" and was considered a local "character".

She was only there by chance, having called into her home to check on two of her children before going out to play

Angela Pitchford, Mrs Fyfe's sister, said Minnie died in her arms. "She had some of her kids with her when it happened. They shouldn't see something like that," she said.

Several witnesses who spoke to *The Independent* confirmed the 25-year-old woman's story.

It is understood that other onlookers' statements to the inquiry, which is being carried out by Derbyshire Police and overseen by the independent Police Complaints Authority (PCA), have said that the blow to Mrs Fyfe's head was an accident which followed a struggle between the policewoman and the teenager holding the piece of wood.

The PCA has already received 30 statements from witnesses and a further 30 from police officers.

The Home Office pathologist has yet to give a conclusive post-mortem examination result, but early tests are understood to show that the injuries to the face are consistent with being hit with a blunt object and that Mrs Fyfe is likely to have died from the effects of the blow.

Lincolnshire Police have refused to comment but a spokesman for the PCA said: "The aim is to complete the investigation within three months."

Then, the eyewitness said,

Rosemary Fyfe: Died after being struck

bingo. Her third child, Andrew, 14, was living with her former husband.

One of Mrs Fyfe's neighbours, a 25-year-old woman who asked to remain anonymous, said: "She was shouting and swearing - that was normal. She was the other side of the garden wall about three to four feet from the woman police officer."

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# Carping will let in Tories, says Blair

TONY BLAIR delivered a tough warning to his party yesterday when he urged party members not to return to the party divisions of the past.

The Prime Minister warned delegates during a question-and-answer session at the party's conference in Blackpool of a myth within the Labour movement that by spreading misgivings about a Labour government, more left-wing policies would be achieved.

"But that is not right. What you achieve is a right-wing Tory Government. We have been there, got the T-shirt and we are not going back again," he said.

Mr Blair also rebuffed criticism from delegates about his plans to cut income taxes as revealed in an interview with *The Independent* last week.

He said he was proud that Labour was no longer regarded as an "instinctive tax and spend party" which just "threw money" at the problem as it did during the 1960s and 1970s.

"Ministers used to get a round of applause by saying we need to spend more money ... but what we are now trying to do is to make the tax system fairer and achieve visible, lasting and tangible change."

The one-hour question-and-answer session, chaired by Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam, was the first of its kind at a Labour conference. It was part of the pledge to build a "Partnership in Power" with an "unbroken line of accountability" between the Government, the parliamentary party, the party in the country and the country as a whole.

"The problem was that we used to have tension between the party in power and the party in the country ... We want to build trust and if you as members, disagree you will at least understand why

## PARTY DIVISION

BY SARAH SCHAEFER  
Political Reporter

we are doing what we are."

The "real comradeship" was about trust, the Prime Minister said. "Solidarity is what will see us through. Have our disagreements, but recognise we want the same things for our country."

Pressed on the election of left-wing delegates to the NEC, Mr Blair made clear that "outright opposition instead of critical support" could cost the Government the next general election. He said: "We have come a very long way as a political party. We have come a long way because we were prepared to make changes that made us more relevant and that connected us with the people."

The choice you've got is not between the Labour Government of your dreams and the Labour Government you've got. The choice is between the Labour Government you've got and a Tory government."

Taking questions from the conference floor, Mr Blair denied that policy-making in the party was now "meaningless", insisting that through the system of policy forums more party members than ever before were being consulted now.

He said: "You are not the Government's audience - you are part of the show. This is your Government. I want you not merely saying, 'Well, you've done this, you've done that and you've done the next thing, but hang on a minute, I've got it in my back pocket' another 10 demands and I'll have those".

"We're getting through these things but we need your help to get through them and we need your help in building support for the Government and for the party in the country too."



A demonstrator lobbies MPs in a bid to keep open the Avesta steel plate mill in Sheffield Brian Harris

# Prescott denies 'no rise in income tax' pledge

A CABINET split over taxation

## TAXATION

BY COLIN BROWN  
Political Correspondent

on the rich. Ken Livingstone, who stepped down from the national executive committee, said: "Blair cannot be serious about not increasing personal taxation."

But the Chancellor will deliver a tough message to the conference today that there can be "no quick fixes, no magic wand" to deliver higher pay and prosperity.

Gordon Brown will add: "There is no other way, not even

the comfort of any soft options, no easy way, no magic-wand solution, no quick-fix easy alternatives to our long-term policies of achieving the goals we share."

Mr Brown will urge delegates not to "throw away" economic prudence as soon as there were problems. He will nail the New Deal programme before flying to the Commonwealth ministers meeting in Ottawa, followed by the G8 in Washington at the weekend.

Embracing the image of the "Iron Chancellor", he will say: "For the economy, our most basic promise of all ... was to restore as an essential objective of government, long-term high and stable levels of growth and employment."

"Our economic competence and our iron resolution, our prudence for a purpose was hard earned and hard won, and we will not sacrifice it for tomorrow's headlines or next week's easy slogans or next month's

false solutions and fashionable gimmicks."

The Chancellor also gave the strongest signal so far that the Bank of England will cut interest rates next week. "The reason mortgages had to go up is the result of interest rate decisions to deal with the inflation problem," he said on Sunday.

Like Mr Prescott, Mr Brown is unhappy about having his hands tied over income tax for the next Parliament. But friends said he had lost his appetite for any big hike in personal taxation.

Mr Prescott may take more persuading. He denied on *Breakfast with Frost* that any decision had been reached by Mr Blair. "He hasn't said that at all as I understand it. He has said that we made our programme for this Parliament and the time will come, appropriately, to make our decisions for the next time."

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# Child benefit tax warning

## VETERAN LABOUR politician

Baroness Castle warned Tony Blair yesterday that he faced mass opposition if he pushed through plans to tax child benefit.

The 87-year-old former Cabinet minister spoke out after it emerged that the Prime Minister may announce in his speech to conference tomorrow that one million better-off families should pay the new tax. The move to target higher rate tax payers could come as early as the next Budget in Spring.

More than seven million families claim the benefit, but ministers have long believed that many middle-class parents simply do not need it. Taxing it could raise up to £2bn a year without sacrificing the principle of universality, ministers believe.

However, Baroness Castle said: "Why pick on child benefit? The principle behind a good welfare state is that the benefits are universal."

Although many middle class parents claimed that they were willing to give up child benefit,

those same people were the ones who eagerly grabbed the Tory tax cuts, she added.

Baroness Castle said that she wasn't optimistic that the new party conference arrangements would allow delegates to oppose the plans.

John Prescott, the deputy Prime Minister, was interviewed on BBC1's *Breakfast with Frost* yesterday and asked if the tax would be brought in. He said: "I don't know. That's Tony Blair's speech. This will have to wait until Tony makes his speech."

Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of Unison, the public services union, told the programme: "If we're talking about clawing back money on child benefit, the principle of income tax is where the money should be clawed back. We are a very rich nation." Ken Livingstone, the MP for Brent East, also suggested the rich should pay higher income tax.

"They simply said they did

# Cook pulls out of left's rally

## TRIBUNE RALLY ROW

BY BARRIE CLEMENT AND COLIN BROWN

not have the room for another speaker." He told the group he was prepared to forgo some of his allotted time to allow Mr Trimble to speak but that did not prove acceptable. He was told Tribune rallies were not intended to centre on one theme and it were meant to afford a platform to speakers on a wide variety of issues.

Mr Cook's friends said the Foreign Secretary had withdrawn because he will be hosting the international reception at the main conference hotel but it would also avoid potential embarrassment over Mr Trimble. "Robin has not pulled out because of Gerry Adams, but there was always the potential for embarrassment. The arrangement was that Robin would speak at the start and Adams at the end," said one of his friends.

"Robin is not doing this because of Gerry Adams but he is not too sad about it."

## THE WEEK AHEAD

**Monday:** Morning: Speech by the Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown, followed by a debate on the economy.

Afternoon: Speech by Trade and Industry Secretary Peter Mandelson, followed by debate on issues including trade, union recognition and the National Minimum Wage.

Speech by Culture Secretary Chris Smith, followed by debate on topics such as admission charges for museums and galleries.

Wednesday: Morning: Speech by Social Security Secretary Alastair Darling on welfare reform.

Wednesday: Morning: Speech by Environment Minister Michael Meacher, followed by debate on environmental protection and rural affairs.

Wednesday: Morning: Speech by Education Secretary David Blunkett followed by debate on education reform.

Wednesday: Morning: Speech by TUC President John Edmonds, followed by speech by Transport Secretary John Prescott on transport, housing and local government.

Wednesday: Afternoon: Speech by Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam, followed by debate on devolution and the reform of the NHS.

Thursday: Morning: Speeches by

Welsh Secretary Ron Davies and Scottish Secretary Donald Dewar on the challenges of devolution and the forthcoming elections to the Welsh Assembly and Scottish Parliament.

Friday: Morning: Speeches by Defence Secretary George Robertson and International Development Secretary Clare Short.

Friday: Afternoon: Closing speech by Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott.

High ELECTIONS

LABOUR CONFERENCE

## High profiles won it for Grassroots

**NEC ELECTIONS**  
BY PAUL WAUGH  
Political Correspondent

THE LEFT-WING Grassroots Alliance swept to power on Labour's ruling National Executive Committee yesterday after one of the hardest-fought internal election campaigns of recent years.

Outspun by the leadership-backed Members First group, the Alliance nevertheless proved to be better organised and staffed in individual branches across the country.

One year after members snubbed Peter Mandelson in favour of Ken Livingstone for a seat on the NEC, the loose grouping of left-leaning candidates showed, yet again, that committed activists can still wield considerable influence among the rank and file.

Tribune editor Mark Seddon, who became the Alliance's leading spokesman, highlighted the effectiveness of the campaign by topping the poll with more than 75,000 votes.

The battle for the six constituency seats on the NEC was marked by some bitter exchanges, with outgoing party general secretary Tom Sawyer accused of bias in favour of Members First after he publicly denounced the group's tactics.

Former leader Neil Kinnock raised the level of vitriol further when he dubbed the Alliance a group of "Trotskites, sectarians and other selfish parasites".

Members First had a war chest of £100,000, including £30,000 from the engineers' union, AEEU. It was also alleged to have hired a private marketing firm to telephone members at a rate of £1 a call.

Tim Pendry, co-ordinator of the Alliance, said that it now formally ceased to exist and its



Liz Davies (left) is delighted as she is elected to Labour's National Executive Committee

## Unions to press for pledge on rights

**UNIONS WILL** today publicly challenge the Government to pledge that it has no plans to water down controversial proposals on employee rights.

They suspect that Peter Mandelson, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, who will be speaking at the Labour Party conference, has responded positively to persistent lobbying from employers who are keen to weaken the impact of the intended legislation.

Bill Morris, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, one of the party's biggest affiliates, said yesterday there were "ominous signs" that the minister would impose a limit on compensation for claims involving unfair dismissal. Under present regulations there is a cap of £12,000, but the "Fairness at Work" White Paper proposes that there should be no

pool he said that many of his colleagues had expressed "dismay" over indications that the Government might be seeking to reopen the question.

The CBI has also asked the Government to think again about its proposal to allow automatic recognition where a union had more than half of a workforce in membership. In addition, employers have expressed concern about a plan that would allow union representation in cases of "grievance" even where the union was not recognised.

Roger Lyons, leader of the Manufacturing, Science, Finance union, pointed out that the Public Interest Act on the protection of "whistle-blowers" in the workplace did not allow for a limit on compensation where workers were dismissed.

He claimed the Department of Trade and Industry had intervened in the drafting process to ensure there was no restriction on payments because that was the principle which was employed in the "Fairness at Work" White Paper.

■ Mr Mandelson is to meet Eddie George, the governor of the Bank of England, to discuss the growing demands for an interest rates cut by both business and trade union leaders.

Mr Mandelson said last night he wanted the Bank to be aware of the views of manufacturing industry and those who worked in it. He added that he wanted to encourage a two-way dialogue between the Bank and industry. But he denied that he would put any pressure on Mr George. "I strongly support independence for the Bank of England and I strongly support the way it has conducted monetary policy."

### FOUR LEFT-WINGERS WHO WON SEATS ON THE NEC

#### Liz Davies

SEEN BY Millbank as an identikit left-wing troublemaker, Davies, 34, is one Islington barrister unlikely to be invited round to No 10 for a cosy chat.

Was Islington councillor who achieved notoriety when the NEC itself refused to endorse her candidacy for the general election in Leeds North East.

Former member of board of Labour Left Briefing magazine, which once described Tony Blair as "Class traitor of the month". Backs progressive taxation to shift resources from the rich to the poor and firmly against dismantling the welfare state. Says "Labour has nothing to fear from dissent."

#### Cathy Jamieson

DESCRIBED AS the "last left-wing member" of the Scottish Labour Party executive, the 41-year-old delegate for Ayr is highly regarded as a professional operator even by her political enemies.

Alies point to the fact that she is on the list of candidates for the next year's elections to the Scottish Parliament as proof of the huge difference between the party north of the border and Millbank.

She is a leading children's campaigner in Scotland, organiser of the advocacy group Who Cares? Scotland, and also a senior panel member on Inquiry into child abuse in Scottish children's homes.

#### Mark Seddon

EDITOR OF left-wing Tribune magazine, an affable yet shrewd strategist and a long-way from the stereotypical image of a far-left socialist. Masterminded the campaign by the Grassroots Alliance, widely acknowledged as better organised and staffed than the Members First campaign. Seen by many as the "acceptable face" of the Alliance, his reputation as a canny media manipulator was borne out by the high profile he achieved during the ballot. Upset party apparatchiks when he published photos of Tony Blair and Peter Mandelson on the front of Tribune with the caption "Politics with a perpetual sneer – beware of the bogey."

#### Pete Willsman

WIDELY RECOGNISED within party circles for his connection with the Bennite Campaign for Labour Party Democracy in the early 1980s, but a virtual unknown outside. Trusted as a safe pair of hands for his detailed knowledge of party procedure and rules, the Unison research officer campaigned on a platform of supporting rank and file members right not to be sidelined by the leadership. An unashamed left-winger, committed to "socialist/co-operative principles", including "redistribution of wealth" committed to gender, race and class issues. Said in his manifesto that he "won't speak to divisive media".

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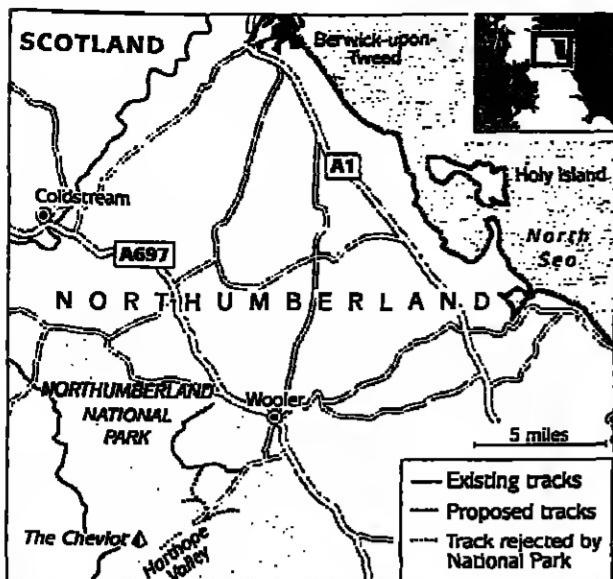
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## Moorland scarred by tracks for shooting

ONE OF Britain's richest, and most secretive, men is building his own network of vehicle tracks over one of Britain's most tranquil and unspoilt national parks, Northumberland.

Duncan Davidson, chairman of Persimmon, Britain's third-

BY MICHAEL McCARTHY  
Environment Correspondent

largest housebuilder, is constructing the tracks to link his growing number of grouse moors in the Cheviot hills.

The development has concerned some Northumbrian

National Park officials, who fear it may impair the remoteness and unspoilt peace which are the park's special qualities.

Mr Davidson's plan is to construct three tracks leading up the sides of one of the prettiest valleys, Harthope.

He has been constructing

the tracks, with mechanical diggers, to link up the various moors and make vehicle access easier.

They are often referred to locally as roads, but are described as tracks on planning documents, in line with Mr Davidson's view. "With respect,

I'm the guy who's building them, and they are hill tracks," he said.

However they are described, all are within the boundary of the Northumberland National Park and officers are concerned that they do not accord with the park's purpose.

"This is a very difficult issue," said Terry Carroll, the deputy national park officer, and the official in charge of planning. "Here is unspoilt moorland with bags of the national park's special qualities, remoteness, lack of development, tranquillity, seemingly a wilderness - and you introduce a road. Or you introduce a network of them, which are more or less conspicuous."

"What effect does that have on the special qualities?"

"People who go there for unspoilt solitude are certainly going to have their view impaired."

Mr Davidson's estate has already been brought to the attention of park officials over 14 kilometres of tracks which have already been built. Two were constructed without proper notification, and another was built bigger than the specification suggested.

Mr Davidson is planning three more tracks, rising out of the Harthope Valley, celebrated by writers including Daniel Defoe and Sir Walter Scott.

Park officials consider the Harthope Valley tracks, totalling eight kilometres, to be for grouse moor management, and therefore asked for full planning applications, which farm and forestry tracks do not need.

Mr Davidson has received planning permission for all three from the National Park Authority, although Mr Carroll and his officials had suggested that one of the applications should be refused. But he has failed with his application for a fourth track, which would have penetrated the wild country under The Cheviot, the 2,600ft peak of the range.

Mr Davidson, 57, is not only the largest private landowner in the park, with more than

25,000 acres - most of the Cheviots now belong to him - but he is also one of the richest men in Britain. His personal fortune was estimated this year at £50m, but some sources put it at more than £100m. He is blue-blooded into the bargain, being the nephew of the last Duke of Norfolk, at whose side he assisted as a page boy in the Coronation in 1953.

Despite his wealth, power and connections, Mr Davidson has succeeded in keeping an extremely low profile. He is unknown as a public figure outside the world of finance.

Newspaper references to him are limited mainly to the booming Persimmon's annual results. There is not a word about him in Who's Who.

His reticence has kept from public view a remarkable social phenomenon: at a time when many large land holdings are being broken up and sold off piecemeal, Mr Davidson has been building up a great country estate, to rival that of his near neighbour, the Duke of

Northumberland. For the past decade he has been steadily buying moorland farms in the Cheviots, at a cost of millions of pounds, and reducing the numbers of sheep to bring back the heather. This provides much better conditions for grouse, country sports and shooting, which are Mr Davidson's passions.

Mr Davidson said he saw nothing in the tracks to which anyone could take exception.

"It's a very large area of land, and it's also a fairly large-scale working sheep farm," he said.

"We need to get around the place and we have very bad weather in winter."

"It's only what's required for the various enterprises on the estate, sheep farming, forestry and so on."

"I own all the land in question and I've been a countryman all my life. I certainly don't feel any of the work we're planning to do to put in these tracks is going to impair the environment at all."

Harthope valley, in the Northumberland National Park, where Duncan Davidson has won planning permission to construct vehicle tracks

Brian Harris

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Duncan Davidson: secretive landowner Pic of York

## New antibiotics to fight 'superbugs'

BY CHARLES ARTHUR  
Technology Editor

in illnesses caused by bacteria that have become resistant to existing treatments, such as penicillin and vancomycin.

More than 5,000 deaths are thought to be caused in the UK each year by MRSA, a strain of bacterium that is resistant to a wide range of antibiotics.

Linezolid is the first of a class of antibiotics known as oxazolidinones. "They represent a really unique class of antibiotics. There has been no unique antibacterial on the market in 20 years," said Dr Moellering.

Existing antibiotics kill bacteria by dissolving or preventing the building of the cell wall, or by stopping the bacteria from making or using essential proteins, or by interfering with their genetic material to prevent reproduction.

The next step will be to apply for clearance from national bodies to license the drug, a process which could take more than a year.

However, the arrival of a new wave of antibiotics will be greeted with relief by doctors, who have seen dramatic rises

bacterial genes. That makes it less likely that resistance can evolve, because all the genes would have to change at once to produce a bacterium able to survive the antibiotic's effects.

Dr Moellering said Pharmacia & Upjohn, cured 95 per cent of specific skin infections, and 96 per cent of cases of pneumonia, the bacterial infection of the lungs.

"It's worked pretty well," said Dr Robert Moellering of Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts, who has tested several new antibiotics in the laboratory.

The next step will be to apply for clearance from national bodies to license the drug, a process which could take more than a year.

More important to the long-term effectiveness of linezolid is that it affects processes stemming from several of the

Nato troops  
war crime

German elections: Former 'Marxist' firebrand plans radical shake-up that will take his country into new millennium



Gerhard Schröder gives a victory wave to his supporters at the SPD's headquarters in Bonn last night

## Chancellery gates open for Schröder

BY IMRE KARACS  
in Bonn

GERHARD SCHROEDER, the Prime Minister of Lower Saxony, emerged last night as the man most likely to lead Germany into the next millennium.

Mr Schröder has experienced many political metamorphoses in his life, has been divorced three times, and changes his mind often. In so many ways, he is everything Helmut Kohl was not.

He was born into poverty in October 1944. His father died on the Eastern Front three days after his son's birth. His mother remarried, but her new husband suffered from tuberculosis, and she had to feed for the five children alone. She cleaned the barracks of the British occupation forces in the northern town of Lemgo for a living.

At the age of 12, young Gerhard had to work in the fields to supplement the family income, and was forced to leave school early to help keep the bailiffs away by working as an apprentice salesman at a chisel shop. Always ambitious and determined, he studied at evening classes, promising his mother that "one day I'll take you away from all this in a Mercedes".

After finishing high school at his own expense, he obtained a law degree at Göttingen university and went on to become a lawyer. These were heady days. Mr Schröder professed himself to be a "Marxist" as he plunged into the maelstrom of left-wing politics. He rose to become President of the Social Democrat Party's youth wing, the "Young Socialists".

But dogma did not interest him as much as power. Balancing three warring factions,

Mr Schröder outflanked them all, and re-positioned the Young Socialist movement closer to the mainstream than it had been.

By the time he reached Bonn as an MP in 1980, and stood outside the chancellery,

shaking the gate and shouting "I want to get in there", he had already lost much of his leftist ardour. And when, 10 years later, he was elected Prime Minister of his native Lower Saxony, the former firebrand was already presenting himself as a paragon of pragmatism.

Like Bill Clinton and Tony Blair, Mr Schröder was prepared to recognise the importance of keeping business sweet long before his party

colleagues, who are still inclined to claim about "social justice" in one of the richest countries of the world. "The economy isn't everything, but without the economy there is nothing," he would frequently say during this campaign.

But Mr Schröder's administrative record is patchy. After his eight years at the helm, Lower Saxony is more heavily in debt than most other Länder; yet it has a level of unemployment higher than the average in the West. In spite of this blemish, he keeps being re-elected, and by increasing majorities.

The voters seem to like the way he oils the wheels of business, lobbies for investment and intervenes occasionally with public funds to save an enterprise from going under, or from being bought by a foreign firm. At the same time, he cuts deals with the unions and tries to keep the wage bills low.

That, at least, was the Gerhard Schröder everyman knew: the "bosses' comrade", who scarcely fitted into the traditional mainstream of the Social Democrat Party.

The views that outraged the left for so long have not been in evidence on the stumps in the

## Villagers join the clamour for reform

THE VILLAGE of Ettringen, a community of 2,800 atop an extinct volcano in the Eifel, has seen a few changes over the years, but not enough. As the locals piled out of the school that served as the election centre for a day, the word "change" hung on every lip.

Even the head of the district Christian Democrat party thought it was a good thing. Gerd Heilmann tried to be enthusiastic about canvassing for another four years for Helmut Kohl. He thought the Chanc-



Kohl: Sixteen years in power

lor had done a good job in the past 16 years. The important issues in these elections, he said, were law and order and tax reform. And unemployment, he added after some thought. "Change will come," he promised, "but it will come in the past 16 years."

Most villagers, it seemed, could not wait for nature to take its course. "Germany needs to become a modern country," said Christoph Hitzel, a scientist who commutes to Bonn, 40 minutes up the Autobahn.

Mr Hitzel, aged 35, rattles off a long list of problems that need to be urgently fixed, head-

BY IMRE KARACS  
in Ettringen

ed by high unemployment, exorbitant taxes, and lack of funding for education. He felt the country had grown sclerotic in the past 16 years.

Mr Hitzel voted for Gerhard Schröder's party, expecting that the Social Democrats will be forced to form a "grand coalition" with the Christian Democrats. "To get all the reforms that have been piling up through the legislature, you need majorities in both the Bundestag and the Bundesrat [the upper chamber of parliament]. It seems only a grand coalition can secure that."

Many Social Democratic sympathisers disagree. "The grand coalition is the worst I can imagine," says Andrea Loch, a housewife. She and her husband voted for Mr Schröder's party, because "we need a government that does something for the workers, for the small people".

Udo Bäsch, a stone-worker, voted Social Democrat because he is disgusted by high unemployment, and felt the tax system was "unjust". About Mr Schröder, he has yet to be convinced. "I prefer Lafontaine," he says. Oskar Lafontaine is on the left wing of the party, more in tune, Mr Bäsch thinks, with the aspirations of working people. "But I accept that Schröder is worth an extra 4 or 5 per cent in votes."

Winfried Spitzley, an architect, voted for the Greens. "It is important to have a party in government that is concerned about the environment," he explains. He thought a Red-Green alliance would work splendidly. "Many people are afraid that the Greens would be bad for industry, but I don't believe that."

## Nato troops arrest war crimes suspect

BY MARCUS TANNER

NATO TROOPS in Bosnia seized another UN-indicted war crimes suspect yesterday. Stevan Todorovic is accused on 15 counts which include murder, rape and torture during the war between Serbs, Croats and Muslims from 1992-5.

The 41-year-old former police chief of Bosanski Samac, on the border with Croatia, was arrested without incident, apparently by American troops.

The sudden display of Western resolve against war crime suspects, most of whom are Serbs, may have been timed to coincide with the start of a one-day tour of Bosnia by the US Defense Secretary, William Cohen.

His visit starts days after the election of a hardline Serb nationalist to the presidency of the Serb-ruled half of Bosnia. Western diplomats fear that Nikola Poplasen will halt the fit-

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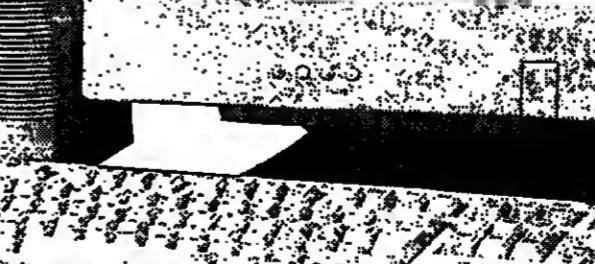
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# US warns Arafat on independent state

MADELEINE ALBRIGHT, the US Secretary of State, held intensive back-to-back meetings with the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and Yasser Arafat, in New York over the weekend, amid fears that the Palestinian leader may be planning to declare a Palestinian state.

With both leaders expected to hold critical talks with President Bill Clinton at the White House today, Ms Albright was

BY DAVID USBORNE  
in New York

seeking, in particular, to forestall a threat by Mr Arafat to declare an independent Palestine in May next year, regardless of the state of negotiations with Israel.

Protected by scores of security commandos brandishing sub-machine guns before star-ted tourists, Mr Arafat took to the avenues of Manhattan yesterday to address a private

conference on Middle East peace at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel on Park Avenue and then visited St Patrick's Catholic Cathedral on Fifth Avenue.

American officials said Ms Albright had warned the Palestinian leader to desist from reiterating his threat to declare an independent state when he gives a speech to the United Nations General Assembly this morning. "Our view is that it would be a mistake and not help-

ful for chairman Arafat to make a unilateral statement," her spokesman, James Rubin, said.

If the atmosphere surrounding the deadlocked Middle East peace process can be improved, Washington is hopeful that progress can be made this week on an agreement for the withdrawal of Israeli troops from the West Bank.

The US goal is an agreement by Mr Netanyahu to withdraw from an additional 13 per cent

of the West Bank on top of the 27 per cent that Israel has already agreed to leave in earlier stages of the process.

This represents a new approach by the US. Washington had previously hoped for a comprehensive agreement on the outstanding issues in the peace process, which is meant to culminate in the creation of the Palestinian state by next May. US officials this weekend played down the prospect of

such a global accord being reached in the near future.

Mr Arafat appeared to be taking a softer approach in his Waldorf address yesterday, suggesting that the transition to an independent state should still be achieved through the peace process. "Let me give a clear 'yes' to the American initiative, which does not even meet our minimal requirement," he said.

Making no direct reference to any unilateral declara-

tions of independence, he added: "I want and hope that the declaration of the existence of an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil will be carried out within the framework of an international celebration." He said the May 1999 deadline "cannot come and go like any other day".

As part of any agreement to surrender the 13 per cent, Israel is demanding that 3 per cent of that land should be set aside by the peace process."



A dancer at a dress rehearsal for 'Turandot' in Peking's Forbidden City in August. She was one of 600 Chinese in the cast of 1,000

## Indian army set for stint in Lebanon

BY ROBERT FISK  
in Beirut

beat within the UN: Ukraine. Mindful that Kiev's UN soldiers ran a thriving black market in Bosnia, their generosity was politely turned down. The UN in Lebanon has no wish to find its petrol, food, armoured vehicles, tyres and guns being sold off to Israelis, Lebanese and Syrians.

Then came India. Even in the debacle of Somalia, the Indians were among the most professional UN troops, and UN officials asked for their most professional officers.

But the Lebanese Prime Minister, Rafiq Hariri, was hoping that his old personal friend, Jacques Chirac, might save the day.

Not so. France will be more than happy to send its own troops as part of a multinational force to oversee a final Israeli withdrawal, but not to sit in the Lebanese quagmire. The French battalion headquarters in Beirut - they were not then an UN force - was suicide-bombed by some of the Hizbullah's chums in 1993, and French troops would prefer to arrive back in the former "Mandalay Francais", in all their glory, when the shooting is over. Besides, the French already have a 246-man logistics unit with the UN in southern Lebanon.

Mr Hariri held out to the end. Several Lebanese ministers privately expressed fears that an Indian Army might contain the sort of folk who like to burn mosques - or who might be rather too Muslim for Lebanon's liking. In the end it is said that the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, had to telephone the Lebanese Prime Minister and break the news: it was the Indians or nothing. An advance party arrives next week to "assess the situation on the ground". That should take them a good 20 years.

## Financial curtains for Puccini in Peking

IT WAS acclaimed an artistic triumph, but the financial performance of "Turandot" in the Forbidden City has proved a flop, a victim of Asia's economic crisis and China's ability to get the better of many foreign businessmen.

The final cost of staging Puccini's opera earlier this month was \$14m (£2.5m). It was directed by Zhang Yimou, China's best-known film director, and conducted by Zubin Mehta, in the former imperial Ancestral Hall. But for Michael Ecker, executive producer, the best financial outcome he can envisage for his private company, Opera on Original Site (OOS), will be break-even.

"Moneywise, operas are not

BY TERESA POOLE  
in Peking

really big moneymakers. But we worked on *Turandot* for nearly five years. From a point of view, it was a disappointing project," he said.

Lower-than-expected sponsorship, flat ticket demand in recession-hit Asia, and too many unsold \$150-\$1,250 tickets all contributed.

"Japan especially was very disappointing, and South-East Asia too," Mr Ecker said.

China, on the other hand, will have done reasonably well from the opera, set in the Forbidden City, which tells of a Chinese princess who has the suitors unable to answer her riddles

beheaded. Opera on Original Site had to pay 4 million yuan (£300,000) to use the venue.

"But there were a lot of other costs," Mr Ecker said. "For example, we paid them a few million yuan for the electricity and the cables. So the Ministry of Culture, the Cultural Relics Bureau, everybody, got some money from this project. And approximately \$80m-\$100m went into the Chinese tourism industry, because a lot of the audience made trips through China."

The company also had to provide the government with "much more than" the previously reported figure of 200 free tickets to each performance. At performances at

tended by *The Independent*, it was difficult to find a Chinese person who had bought a ticket.

The government did not contribute any sponsorship. "I was astonished that the Chinese charged us so enormous a fee for rent. Because in Egypt and all other countries where you go, they even give you support money for promoting."

"We did not get one single dollar from the Chinese tourist authority for promoting this project. In Egypt, you would get millions of dollars," said Mr Ecker, who headed marketing and promotion for the 1987 performance of *Aida* in Egypt.

The final accounting picture will not emerge for two months, when Opera on Original Site

and its Chinese co-organiser, the China Performing Arts Agency (CPAA), complete accounts, which will be audited by Coopers & Lybrand. But the broad financial picture looks something like this:

■ The Italian Culture Ministry put up \$1.5m for costumes and flying the orchestra and chorus of the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino to Peking.

■ The China Performing Arts Agency covered 10 per cent of the budget in return for 45 per cent of the gross ticket sales.

■ That left OOS seemingly responsible for \$1.1m of the budget, which it needed to cover by selling worldwide media rights, sponsorship and donations, and its 55 per cent of ticket sales.

Apart from television rights in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan, which belong to the company and the China Performing Arts Agency, all other television, compact disc, digital video disc and video rights were pre-sold to CLT UFA International, which is owned by Bertelsmann, the German media conglomerate. One source said that the fee was "not far away from" \$2.5m.

So the company had a big hole to fill. Sponsorship and donations were lower than budgeted, though corporate deals helped to dispose of some of the more expensive tickets. OOS/CPAA's mainland and Hong Kong rights have still not been sold.

The current eight-nation UN "interim" force in southern Lebanon has been in theatre for 20 years, ever since the first Israeli invasion, and the Norwegians, tough and well-trained Nato troops, have been based outside the town of Marjayoun from the start. After Israel's second invasion, in 1982, they found themselves inside the occupation zone, on guard against not only the Israelis but Israel's proxy "South Lebanon Army" militia and infiltrating Hizbullah guerrillas.

But after two decades, Norway has had enough. Despite appeals to stay, the last troops will be out by 7 December. But the first nation which volunteered to fill the gap provoked many a missing heart.

They will be stationed in an area which includes Christian militiamen, Druze and Sunni Muslim villagers as well as Israeli settlers. Welcome, in other words, to the Lebanese cocktail.

The current eight-nation UN

## The Fresco seafood restaurant: it's a riot every Saturday

CITY LIFE  
JERUSALEM



The Fresco is facing the wrath of Jewish zealots



According to a survey published last spring by the Committee to Uphold the Sabbath in Jerusalem, the number of businesses open on Friday night and Saturday has doubled in the past three years. They logged 43 restaurants, 13 coffee shops, 28 pubs, nine nightclubs, three cinemas, eight kiosks, six fast-food and takeaway shops, and 10 taxi ranks. A local paper counted another 30 eateries that the committee missed. You have to book if you want to be sure of a table.

Jerusalem is at once a holy city and a capital city, the home of countless yeshivas, but also of the Hebrew University and the Bezalel Academy of Art. Jewish tradition speaks of two Jerusalems, the heavenly Jerusalem and the earthly Jerusalem.

Despite the aggro, they find ways to coexist. Yet the zealots, about 30 per cent of Jerusalem's 400,000 Jews, are silencing away at the resistance. Demography is on their side. More than 50 per cent of this year's primary school intake was ultra-Orthodox.

Fresco's chef, Udi Meiri, is pessimistic: "They take one street after another. A lot of my friends are moving to Tel Aviv. We tried to negotiate with a more respectable delegation that came to see us. But they wanted us either to go kosher or close. The gap is so wide that I don't think it can be bridged."

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cool oasis in a restored 19th-century mansion, serves Mediterranean seafood forbidden by kosher law, on the day of rest, too. The restaurant, truth be told, is tucked between Prophets Street and Jaffa Road, the main thoroughfare of Jewish West Jerusalem. It interferes with no one's Sabbath.

The rioters' real aim is to close Prophets Street, which runs near but not through, the ultra-Orthodox ghetto of Mea Shearim, on Saturdays. In a holy city where logic-chopping has been raised to an art form, such distinctions dictate how the rest of us live.

Last year they forced the town council to close another main road, Bar-Ilan, on Saturdays. Bar-Ilan has been engulfed over the past decade by the synagogues and seminaries of the expanding ultra-Orthodox suburb. They are less likely to succeed in Prophets Street, where the only ecclesiastical buildings are an Anglican School, a French convent and the Swedish Protestant Theological Institute.

The zealots campaign with

"They threaten to burn us down," says Udi Meiri, the 26-year-old chef and part-owner. "They threatened to smash up the place. They yell that cancer will consume us, that we'll be struck by lightning."

When Nurit Rosenberg, a 25-year-old waitress, answers the phone she is cursed as a whore. Occasionally, the students come to the door and spit at her. They call her a shiksa, a non-Jewish slot, "It's frustrating," she says. "It's insulting, humiliating."

The Fresco is one of dozens of Jerusalem restaurants open on the Sabbath. In the Russian Compound, just as close to Mea Shearim, discs rock till dawn.

JULY 1998

# Georges heads for New Orleans

**INTERSTATE ROUTE 10**, the main road out of the city of New Orleans, was clogged with traffic yesterday as fearful residents sought to flee the city before the onslaught of Hurricane Georges.

More than a million people have been told to leave their homes and head for safer areas in the states of Alabama and Louisiana.

The hurricane, which has already wreaked havoc across much of the Caribbean and the Florida Keys, was gathering

BY MARY DEJEVSKY  
in Washington

Louisiana with the arrival of the outer squalls of the hurricane.

The atmosphere in the city was tense, though there was no sign of panic, as people bought stocks of bottled water and other staples, boarded up their homes and took to the road.

On Saturday night, those determined to sit it out continued to party in the city's French Quarter, but many of the most famous clubs and restaurants were closing down and boarding up.

The voluntary or compulsory evacuation orders covers a wide swathe of the US Gulf coast from Louisiana in the west to the Florida Panhandle in the east.

But forecasters at the National Hurricane Centre in Miami said that the likely focus of the storm, barring any last minute change of direction, was New Orleans. Hotels in towns and cities far enough inland to be regarded as safe from the storm warned they already had no more room for tardy evacuees.

Although New Orleans itself is protected by more than 100 levees, flooding was seen as the greatest danger in this low-lying area that is only just recovering from the ravages of a tropical storm two weeks ago. The damage caused then prompted President Bill Clinton to declare the worst affected districts a disaster area, allowing them to qualify for federal aid. But New Orleans itself was not affected severely enough to qualify.

Heavy rain and strong winds were already reported from



Vehicles jam interstate route 10 out of New Orleans yesterday as Hurricane Georges heads for land AP

Reports suggested it could land anywhere between Mobile, on the coast in Alabama, and New Orleans, further west along the coast in neighbouring Mississippi. In Port Sulphur, Louisiana, near where the storm was expected to make landfall, the sheriff's deputy said: "I hope everybody who needed to get out is gone. It's blowing really hard but no rain yet. I wish we were gone too."

Heavy rain and strong winds were already reported from

New Orleans' situation — which could fast develop into a category 3 — with winds of more than 120mph — before making landfall.

Initially, Georges had been forecast to reach land along the Mississippi and Alabama coasts. The beach resorts there were cleared on Saturday, and the casinos at Biloxi were closed. The shoreline, usually bustling with boats and people,

was eerily deserted, even as the sun continued to shine.

It was late on Saturday that the hurricane made a slight move to the west. It was this move that made New Orleans the most likely target. Conceding that they were ill-prepared

for a hurricane, the local authorities ordered mandatory evacuation of about a million people.

The mayor, Marc Morial, declared a state of emergency, a prerequisite for putting in place a curfew and for calling in federal assistance.

The most recent forecast was that the centre of the hurricane could reach the Mississippi delta by yesterday evening, although its progress towards land was slowing even as its winds speeds were picking up.

## Europe urges Britain to rejoin ERM

BY STEPHEN CASTLE  
in Vienna

tending the euro-zone, which has been a bulwark against the kind of turbulence sweeping South-East Asia and Russia.

British hostility to re-entry is rooted in the pound's ignominious withdrawal from the mechanism, under which parities were fixed within bands.

Failure to join ERM2 could jeopardise Britain's prospects of entering the single currency if it wants to do so. Under the Maastricht treaty, membership of ERM for two years is a precondition of entry. Britain's entry could be vetoed by any member state if it has not been part of the ERM.

At the minimum, other European countries would want to see a two-year period of exchange rate stability for the pound.

That raises the prospect of Britain having to shadow the euro, within a margin of around 15 per cent; if Mr Brown wants to keep open the option of membership of EMU early in the next parliament.

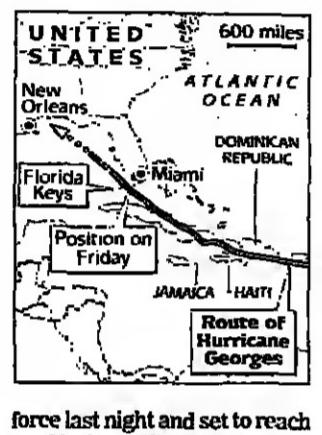
## Hardline Slovakian PM loses election

BY ADAM LEBOV  
in Budapest

However, the opposition bloc is united by little more than hostility to Mr Meciar. The four parties will find it difficult to find a common platform.

Mr Meciar's party claimed victory as the single largest party in the Bratislava parliament. Vice-chairman Sergej Kozlik said the party had "won the election and will behave like a winner. There is no reason for Prime Minister Meciar to quit".

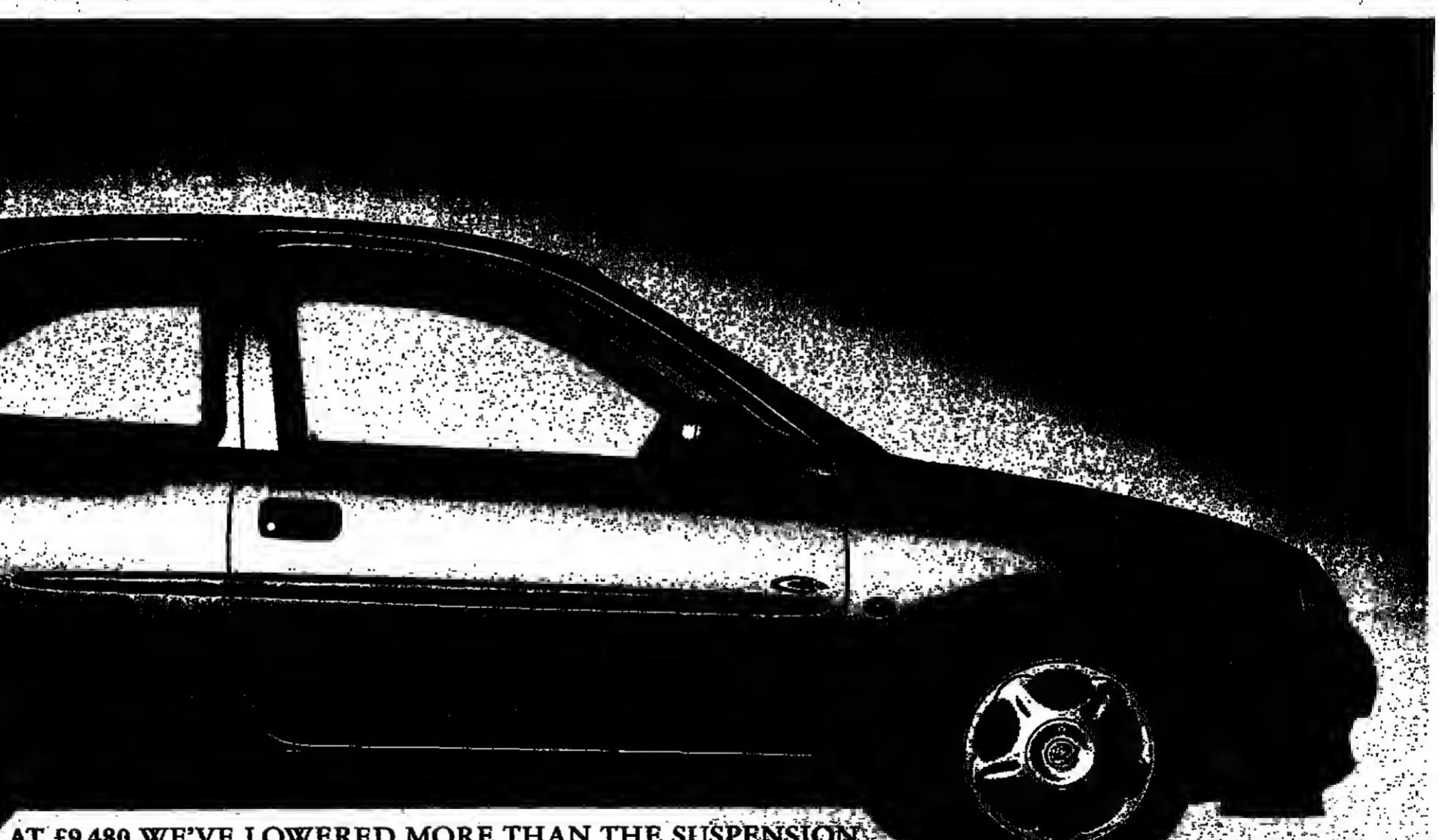
Mr Meciar, a bullish nationalist, has been criticised for his authoritarian style and poor record on human rights.



force last night and set to reach land before midday today.

Reports suggested it could land anywhere between Mobile, on the coast in Alabama, and New Orleans, further west along the coast in neighbouring Mississippi. In Port Sulphur, Louisiana, near where the storm was expected to make landfall, the sheriff's deputy said: "I hope everybody who needed to get out is gone. It's blowing really hard but no rain yet. I wish we were gone too."

Heavy rain and strong winds were already reported from



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## BRIEFING

### Digital TV subscription launched

ONDIGITAL, the digital television broadcaster owned by Granada and Carlton, will today unveil a flexible subscription package that will allow customers to choose the channels they want rather than receive a pre-determined list. The basic service will cost £7.99 a month for six channels. The choice will include channels such as Sky One, Sky Gold and the BBC programming but not premium subscription channels such as Sky Sports.

### Rolls-Royce wins £580m BA deal



ROLLS-ROYCE HAS beaten off American rivals General Electric and Pratt & Whitney to win a £580m contract to supply up to 64 engines for the long-haul Boeing 777 aircraft British Airways ordered last month. In a deal that will help to safeguard more than 25,000 jobs in the UK, Rolls will provide Trent 900 engines for the 16 twin-engined Boeing 777s that BA ordered in August.

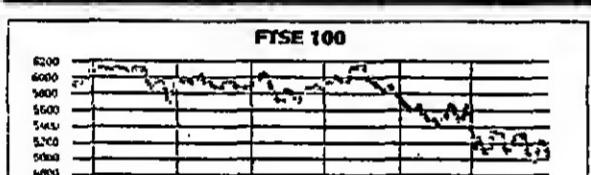
### Pru restructure cuts 300 jobs

PRUDENTIAL IS planning to close 34 branches and cut 300 jobs in its sales management and branch support staff next year as it attempts to restructure the way its 3,500-strong salesforce is paid. The Pru, which has been criticised by City regulators for the mis-selling of financial products by its sales force, is proposing to move away from a commission-based pay system by increasing its sales staff's basic salaries and making additional earnings "dependent on the quality of advice and business activity".

### Management buyouts in trouble

BACKERS OF recent management buyouts could soon find themselves unable to cash in their investments, according to research sponsored by Deloitte & Touche Corporate Finance and Barclays Private Equity. The Centre for Management Buy Out Research estimates the private equity market has surged to £11.4bn so far this year - exceeding the record £10.7bn for the whole of 1997 - while total funds raised in the new issue market has averaged only £7bn a year over the past seven years. This raises doubts over the potential for successful flotations of many management buyouts in the future.

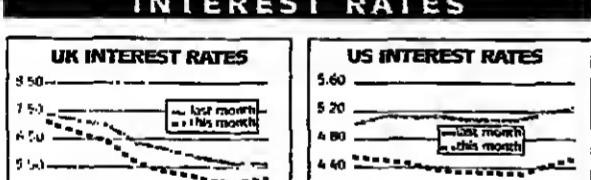
### STOCK MARKETS



### INDICES

Index	Close	Wk ch	Wk ch (%)	S2 wk	Hgh	S2 wk low	Wk ch (%)
FTSE 100	5061.00	5.40	0.11	5183.7	4362.8	3,891	-0.10
FTSE 250	4928.90	-117.80	-2.54	5970.9	4428.3	5,105	-2.05
FTSE 350	5240.70	-8.70	-0.16	5266.1	5141.8	4,099	-0.12
FTSE All Share	5343.85	-10.98	-0.47	5288.52	5106.59	4,103	-1.54
FTSE SmallCap	2011.50	-49.50	-2.40	2799.8	2032.5	4,173	-1.43
FTSE Fleeting	1134.90	-20.70	-1.79	1517.1	1140.2	4,516	-1.43
FTSE AIM	852.40	-20.30	-2.33	1146.9	855.7	1,365	-1.36
FTSE EIBL 100	633.94	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dow Jones	8028.77	133.11	1.69	9367.84	6971.32	1,186	-1.23
Nikkei	13723.84	-259.28	-1.85	18439.76	13521.13	1,123	-1.23
Hong Kong	7701.61	255.65	3.43	15242.65	6544.79	5,272	-1.43
Dax	4561.58	-37.00	-0.81	6217.83	3487.24	3,473	-1.36

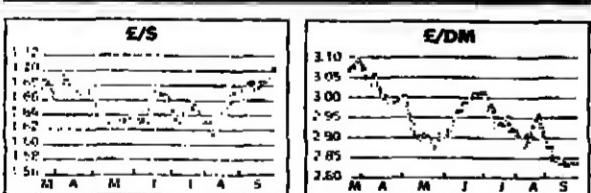
### INTEREST RATES



### MONEY MARKET RATES

Interest	3 month	Yr end	1 year	Yr end	10 year	Yr end	Long bond	Yr end
UK	7.38	0.09	6.94	-0.59	5.03	-1.60	4.65	-1.92
US	5.31	-0.41	5.06	-0.91	4.56	...	5.12	...
Austria	0.44	-0.14	0.48	-0.15	0.84	-1.29	1.36	-1.43
Germany	3.48	0.18	3.57	-0.15	3.97	-1.50	4.94	-1.23

### CURRENCIES



### OTHER INDICATORS

Commodity	Close	Wk ch	Yr ago	Index	Chg	Yr ago	Prev. Yr
Brent Crude (\$)	14.51	0.39	15.05	GDP	115.40	3.00	112.04
Gold (\$)	294.15	2.70	327.15	RPI	163.70	3.30	158.47
Silver (\$)	5.19	0.19	4.75	Base Rates	7.50	7.00	

[www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com)

SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

### TOURIST RATES

Country	Close	Wk ch	Yr ago	Index	Chg	Yr ago	Prev. Yr
Australia (\$)	2.7689	...	15.84	Mexican (nuevo peso)	15.84		
Austria (schillings)	19.25			Netherlands (guilders)	3.0865		
Belgium (francs)	56.61			New Zealand (\$)	3.2745		
Canada (\$)	2.4927			Norway (krone)	12.19		
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8086			Portugal (escudos)	279.83		
Denmark (krone)	10.49			Swiss (francs)	6.2006		
Finland (markka)	8.4344			Singapore (\$)	2.7445		
France (francs)	9.1907			Spain (pesetas)	232.40		
Germany (marks)	2.7495			South Africa (rand)	9.5624		
Greece (drachma)	476.35			Sweden (krone)	13.00		
Hong Kong (\$)	12.72			Switzerland (francs)	2.2668		
Ireland (pounds)	1.0944			Turkey (lira)	451.97		
India (rupees)	66.40			USA (\$)	1.6539		
Israel (shekels)	6.0433						
Italy (lira)	2723						
Japan (yen)	223.03						
Malaysia (ringgit)	6.2016						
Malta (lira)	0.6142						

Source: Thomas Cook

### Siemens fails to find rescuer

SIEMENS will begin running down its £1bn semi-conductor plant on Tyneside this week, with the loss of 1,100 jobs, after failing to find a rescuer for the factory.

A six-week search for a buyer, headed by a taskforce set up by Peter Mandelson, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, has drawn a blank.

Confirmation that the plant is to close will be a bitter blow for the north-east following the decision by Fujitsu to close another microchip plant in the region. A Siemens spokesman said that despite intense efforts

to save the plant, there was little sign of a rescue deal. Workers at the state-of-the-art factory, opened only a year ago by the Queen, will be given the chance to leave the plant but the plant isn't and we must do everything we can to find an alternative owner for it," he said.

The DTI task force was led by Andrew Fraser, the head of the Invest in Britain Bureau, and Lou Avis, the head of personnel at the Siemens plant. In the past few weeks, accountancy firm PricewaterhouseCoopers was brought in to help with the search for a buyer.

When Siemens announced the closure at the end of July, Mr Mandelson said that "every effort" would be made to find a buyer. "Siemens may be leaving north Tyneside but the plant isn't and we must do everything we can to find an alternative owner for it," he said.

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BY MICHAEL HARRISON

industry, is understood to have been involved in helping broker the deal. Last week he approved PowerGen's £1.8bn takeover of East Midlands Electricity on condition that it disposed of two coal-fired power stations. This removed one of the remaining obstacles to a deal with RJB.

Weekend reports suggested

PowerGen will buy 25 million

tonnes of coal from RJB over the three-year period. This figure is thought to be on the high side although it is clear PowerGen is preparing to buy substantial tonnages. It will burn 12-13 million tonnes of coal this year of which RJB is so far contracted to supply 1.5 million tonnes.

RJB has been spared from

having to close pits because of

a fall in electricity imports through the cross-Channel con-

nector to France. This has resulted in the coal burn at UK power stations since April being 23 per cent higher than last year - creating a market for extra three million tonnes of coal.

National Power has already

signed up to buy 18 million

tonnes of coal over the three-

year period, while Eastern, the

third big fossil-fuel generator,

is buying 14 million tonnes.

PowerGen is aiming to raise

about £1bn from the sale of the two coal-fired stations. It will sell them with coal supply agreements with RJB intact.

The energy review is likely to

re-affirm the moratorium on

the building of further gas-fired

stations in order to give coal a

level playing field.

The one area of uncertainty

that remains is how much coal-

fired capacity National Power

will have to sell. Based on the

size of the PowerGen disposals it could be as much as 6,000 megawatts, or three stations.

The Government has less

# World must rely on Federal Reserve

**THE ONE THING** that all central bankers agree on at the moment is that they are definitely not planning a co-ordinated cut in interest rates. This is despite the obvious fact that a global systemic shock threatens the health of the world economy. Exactly why central bankers think that they will help calm financial markets by emphasising the "uncoordinated" aspects of their response to this shock is highly puzzling.

If the central bankers were inclined, as they should be, to treat the world economy as a single entity instead of examining their own navel, they would surely have realised long ago that monetary policy on a global basis has been too tight for quite a while. In the past year, global inflation (measured by the GDP deflator for OECD countries) has dropped from 1.6 per cent to 1 per cent, and the increase in nominal GDP has fallen from 4.6 per cent to 2.9 per cent. These figures are dangerously low.

A sensible target for nominal GDP growth in the main economies would be 4.5 per cent, so a figure of less than 3 per cent should be sounding a major alarm bell. Similarly, with price inflation running at only 1 per cent, there is a very severe danger that further negative demand shocks could lead to absolute declines in overall price levels - ie deflation at an aggregate level. As we saw in the 1930s, and have seen more recently in Japan,



GAVYN DAVIES

*There is absolutely no reason why the global central banks should not ease policy*

the arrival of deflation essentially nullifies the effectiveness of monetary policy, since real interest rates can ratchet upwards, even when central bankers are attempting to achieve the exact opposite.

One of the potential pitfalls of adopting a low inflation objective (say around 2 per cent) is that it does not take much of a contractionary shock to tip the economy into an unintended deflationary spiral. Since central banks are effectively crippled in such an environment, one might expect them to be extremely eager to avoid a deflationary problem in the first place.

Dangerously low rates of inflation and nominal income growth are not the only reasons for believing that global monetary policy has recently been too tight. Goldman Sachs closely monitors the results of the so-called "Taylor Rule", which calculates the "optimal" level of short-term interest rates, based on the rate of inflation relative to its target and the global output gap. At present, the Taylor Rule indicates that the optimal level of global short rates is 3.3 per cent, around a full percentage point below the level actually being set by the central banks today.

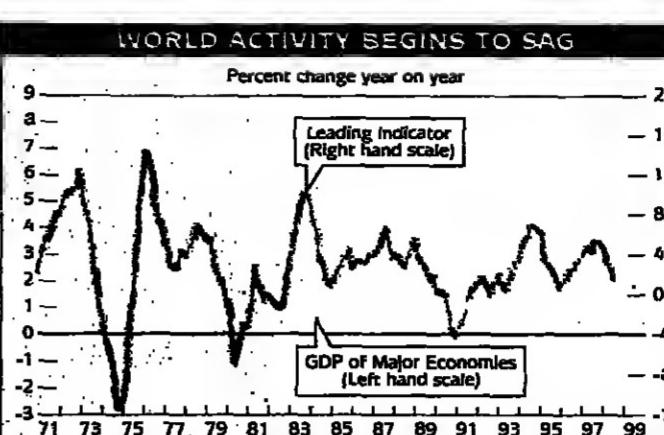
In addition, Goldman calculates an aggregate monetary conditions indicator (MCI) for the G7 economies, taking account of exchange rate changes, short-term interest rates and long-term bond yields. Largely because of the rise in G7 currencies against emerging market currencies since the Asian shock, the MCI has spent most of the past 12 months hovering around 0.5-1.0 per cent tighter than its 10-year average level. Surely, with inflation plummeting towards 1 per cent, the MCI should be easier than average.

Given all this, why did the central banks not ease monetary policy sometime ago? Several factors have been at work. First, the region where lower interest rates have most obviously been needed has been Asia, but this is simply not proven possible. In Japan, short rates have al-

ready been close to zero, while in the rest of Asia fears of currency devaluation, linked to the tough conditions attached to International Monetary Fund programmes, have kept interest rates far too high. Second, the Europeans have not only been distracted by the complications of launching the single currency, but they have also persuaded themselves that the EU is less exposed to financial market shocks than either Japan or the US. Third, the US Federal Reserve has rightly been concerned with the tightening of the American labour market, and the increase in equity prices. The Bank of England, with even more cause, has been similarly troubled here. With all these distractions happening in peripheral national economies, no one has been sufficiently far-sighted to recognise the over-riding global need for easier money.

Superimposed on all this, and possibly linked to it, has been a reverberating series of financial market shocks. These, of course, started in Asia last year, triggering large rises in risk premia on all emerging market assets. Initially, financial markets in the West remained immune from these rising risk premia, so the impact of the Asian shock was easily shrugged off by the US and EU economies.

But all this has changed dramatically for the worse in the past few weeks. For the first time, the increase in risk premia in emerging



economies has started to leak into Western financial markets. The most dramatic events have occurred in the credit spread markets, with many swap and asset-backed spreads rising to historic highs. The speed of increase in these spreads has caused large losses among leveraged investors, and this has raised doubts about the ability of these entities to finance themselves. The possible failure of important leveraged investors could lead to fire sales of assets which would severely undermine all financial markets.

Despite a further drop in bond yields, US and European share prices have fallen precipitously, with the all-important risk premium on equities therefore starting to rise.

Lower share prices now threaten to damage economic confidence in the West, eliminating the previous immunity of these economies to further trade shocks from the emerging markets. In other words, this cocktail of bad news is much more serious than the isolated Asian shock of 1997. This time, it has the potential, if left unchecked, to cause an outright global recession.

Fortunately, there is absolutely no reason why the global central banks should not ease policy in this environment. Goldman Sachs calculates that the aggregate impact of further Asian and Latin American shocks, taken together with a potential 30 per cent drop in equities from the July peak, would reduce the global economic growth rate by 0.5

per cent this year; by 1.6 in 1999, and by a further 1.5 per cent in 2000. Cumulating these growth effects, the aggregate hit to the level of global GDP would be around 3.4 per cent over three years - the largest shock to output since the first oil crisis in 1974.

However, in sharp contrast to the oil shocks - which were highly inflationary as well as recessionary - this would be a deflationary shock. If it is allowed to continue unchecked, it could reduce the global GDP growth rate to under 1 per cent next year, and that in turn could lead to outright price deflation during 2000. Faced with this prospect, one shudders to think what might happen to world financial markets and the banking system.

In view of these systemic threats to the health of the world economy, it would be highly reassuring if the major central banks would act in concert to ease monetary conditions. Failing this, then either the Federal Reserve or the European Central Bank (ECB) needs to usurp the leadership role, and take decisive action itself.

Sadly, the ECB seems entirely unprepared to do this - which leaves an immense burden of responsibility and expectation on the Federal Reserve. As so often in the past, we can be confident that Mr Greenspan will apply courage and common sense where others in similar positions have been found wanting.



Hans Tietmeyer, Bundesbank president (left) wants to revamp policy; Dr Mahatir Mohamad, the Malaysian Prime Minister (centre) has brought in capital controls. Gordon Brown (right) wants more globalisation

## Global regulators head for battle of the decade

BY LEA PATERSON

THIS YEAR'S annual meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank will take place during the worst global financial crisis for at least a decade. Discussion of how to alleviate the crisis, and how to handle future crises, will dominate the agenda, with topics such as emerging market debt relief given considerably less attention than usual.

Top of the discussion list will be the currency speculators. The speculators have not only been blamed for exacerbating the emerging market crisis by driving down currencies to excessively low levels, but recent developments at Long-Term Capital Management (LTCM) have also underscored the risks that the speculators pose to the financial system.

Last week, the US Federal Reserve was forced to co-ordinate an international bail-out of LTCM amid concerns that the collapse of the fund could endanger the health of the world's banks. The question of how, if at all, the hedge funds can be better-controlled - as well as how economies can protect themselves from the speculators' worst excesses - will take up much of the time of the hundreds of central bank regulators and finance officials due to gather in Washington over the coming weeks. They will be gathering as the US Federal Reserve's policy-making committee meets tomorrow amid rising expectations that it will cut interest rates.

Although the official meetings of the IMF and the Bank do not start until 6 October, most of the key topics will be discussed well in advance at a series of summits. Indeed, policy makers have already started airing the issues. Malaysia, for example, has been

**News Analysis:** The upcoming IMF/World Bank meetings look more contentious than ever

spearheading the "anti-speculator" movement for some time. Dr Mahatir Mohamad, the Malaysian Prime Minister, has been a long-term critic of the currency speculators. More recently, Dr Mahatir took concrete steps to protect his country from volatile capital flow by imposing capital controls.

Hong Kong has also jumped on the "anti-speculator" bandwagon. Its recent decision to intervene directly in the financial markets to punish speculators who had, according to some, been "manipulating the markets", underscores Hong Kong's determination to defend its economy against a speculative siege.

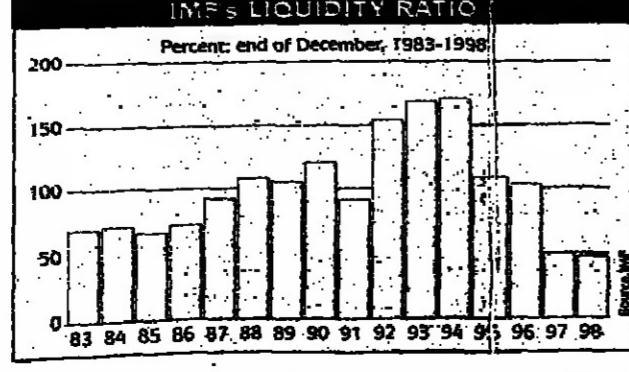
Although Western delegates are expected to express concern about the excessive volatility of capital flows, many are worried that a retreat into protectionism could make the long-term situation worse. In a recent speech in Tokyo, Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, stressed that the appropriate response to the crisis was more globalisation, not less. He told Japanese bankers: "Protectionism anywhere is a

funds, as private investment partnerships that are often based offshore, are largely exempt from the stringent financial controls applied to banks.

The structure of the IMF and the World Bank is also set to be a hot topic of debate. The IMF, in particular, is facing a funding crisis, with resources close to record lows. The IMF has been accused of squandering the limited funds it does have available. Some have accused it of exacerbating the problems of the countries to which it lends by insisting on inappropriate economic reforms. Others have criticised the way in which its limited resources are used to defend embattled currencies, as was the case recently in Russia. The issue of "moral hazard" - whereby countries deliberately pursue inappropriate policies in the hope that the IMF will step in and pick up the tab - will also be on the agenda.

Britain and France have already stated their desire to see an overhaul of both the IMF and the Bank. In a recent speech in New York, Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, talked of building "a new Bretton Woods for the next millennium". But although the political mood in London and Paris may strongly favour reform, this is not the case elsewhere. Germany, for example, appears to be strongly opposed to overhauling the two international institutions. Hans Tietmeyer, president of the Bundesbank, said last week: "We don't need a new architecture or new organisations, we need new accents in policy."

Protectionism versus globalisation. More regulation versus less. New international institutions versus the status quo. The upcoming annual IMF/Bank meetings should be among the most contentious for many years to come.



## Life offices urged to disclose impact of interest rate falls

BY ANDREW VERITY

THE GOVERNMENT is writing to life insurers to assess the impact of an unprecedented plunge in long-term interest rates which is likely to force the industry to set aside billions of pounds in extra reserves.

Amid fears that the financial strength of life offices has been weakened by the global financial crisis, the Government Actuary is asking life offices to disclose how far the plunge in long-term interest rates has damaged their balance sheets.

In the first official estimate, the Government Actuary's department forecasts that life offices will have to set aside

official at the Government Actuary's Department, said: "We are writing to all the different life offices asking for more details of exposure to guarantee annuities in the past. With the current [market conditions] we would estimate that companies would be setting aside something of the order of six or seven billion pounds."

He added that some companies may find they are financially weakened by the problem, leaving them with fewer free assets than before. Free assets are a crucial determinant of the level of annual bonus paid to holders of

endowments, life insurance and pensions.

"It must lead to some reduction in the free asset ratios for a number of companies. We are currently looking at who might be affected. In any case where companies might have a problem, we will be talking to them."

Fears are mounting that the fall-out of the financial crisis will not be confined to annuity guarantees. Experts are increasingly worried it may impair the ability of life insurers to finance new business, and that it could also affect their solvency.

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# Roller-coaster market fails to frighten City strategists

THE TURMOIL in the stock market has yet to cause alarm and despondency among City strategists, even those of a bullish disposition.

Although one leading insurance group admits the jittery stamp has prompted it to abandon, for the time being, its long cherished and widely followed practice of producing year-end Footsie forecasts, there appears to be a tendency in most quarters to carry on as usual and adopt the legendary advice of a now forgotten Stock Exchange chairman, Lord Ritchie of Dundee.

In 1982, when shares were in ragged retreat, he suggested small investors "should put their heads down and let the wind blow over them". In those days the now little-noticed FT 30 share index suffered its the largest one-day fall, 18 points to 2613. It was pretty good advice; the FT30 is now around 3,100.

Among strategists looking for the present Footsie 100 share index to end the year at 6,000 points are Bob Semple and David McBain at BT Alex Brown and Andy Hartwell at SG Securities.

Mr Hartwell has this month raised his 1999 target to 6,750. He says: "The Asian Tiger and the Russian bear have given Goldilocks and the Growth Fairy a severe mauling; both are in intensive care. But the next move is into the recovery ward, not the morgue. Risk remains in the short term but the end game is reflation not deflation as interest rate expectations come down".

## STOCK MARKET WEEK



DEREK PAIN

Goldman Sachs has raised its global equities allocation from 57 to 60 per cent and ABN AMRO, not noted as a bull, observes: "A much needed equity correction has taken place but with it has come an excessively defensive market. Recession has been priced into sector ratings rather than a slowdown and this offers selective buying opportunities." Strategist Mark Brown's Footsie targets are 5,500 this year and 6,000 in June next year.

Richard Jeffrey at Charterhouse Tilney, another who was not excited by the market's heady run, is on 5,200 for the year end and 5,750 for end-1999.

It is now a near certainty that interest rates are on their way down. Some US banks have already cut their prime rates, anticipating a reduction by the Federal Open Market Committee this week and even a reluctant Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee seems to have come round to the view a cut is needed.

The hedge fund problems could escalate, banks could find themselves forced into making more wounding provisions and other difficulties, real



card, where the mid cap and small cap indices seem to be hitting new lows for the year with monotonous regularity.

Although selling may have produced exaggerated price movements it would be foolish to pretend that non-Footsie stocks have not been the subject of some determined unloading. Building and leisure shares have been particularly hit hard.

Manchester United is also on this week's profits agenda although the attentions of Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB and, according to the rumour mill, other potential predators, have kicked profit considerations out of the share equation.

Perhaps that is just as well, as Merrill Lynch earlier this month dramatically sliced its profits estimate - from £27m to £14m. A £15.5m deficit on transfers dealings prompted the revision.

Bank of Scotland is the heavyweight on the reporting schedule. It checks in with interim profits which are expected to be around £425m against £247m when a £23m write down took its toll. The sale of a New Zealand off-shoot should be booked in the second half year.

It is suspected that the growth of the group's lending offset deteriorating margins.

Bank of Scotland shares have suffered in the banking retreat although they have performed better than some of their rivals. At 55p they are just over 200p below their spring time peak.

Footsie peaked at 6,179 in July; since then it has been on a ski slope ending last week at 5,061. What has to some extent been overlooked is the demobilisation on the market under

Andrews Sykes, Austin Reed, Marks & Spencer, etc.

WEDNESDAY - Final: A H Bell, Interim: Bank of Scotland, Branks Hatch, Brooks Service, Electronics Boutique, House of

Francesco, ICI, Korda, Lycamobile, M&G, National Grid, P&G, Pilkington, RBS, Royal Mail, Sainsbury, Standard Chartered, Unilever, Vodafone, WPP, Xstrata.

THURSDAY - Economics: UK Purchasing Managers Index (September), Orty turnover of distributive and service trades.

FRIDAY - Economics: Alpha Airports, British Airways, Interisland, Marks & Spencer, National Grid, P&G, Royal Mail, Sainsbury, Standard Chartered, Unilever, Vodafone, WPP, Xstrata.

TUESDAY - Economics: Consumer credit data for August, Final M4 for August, New

# Stiff upper lip causes Yorkshire TV trouble

## WHO'S SUING WHOM

JOHN WILLCOCK



a prospectus for a rights issue by Resort Hotels published on 30 April 1992 by Feld, who forged the figures to make the business look more successful. The rights issue aimed to raise £20.6m.

Feld is currently serving a six-year sentence for fraud. In his original trial Feld was found guilty of lying about the hotel chain's financial position, forging documents and boosting a profits forecast to back up the rights issue. Two years later the company collapsed leaving over 500 small shareholders out of pocket, almost all of whom are suing for compensation.

Feld was described by the trial judge, Mr Justice Zucker, as "a man of quite appalling dishonesty". Feld's advisers, who are named on Invesco's writ, are Barclays of Zetze Wedd, his broker, and Coopers & Lybrand, his auditor. Bank of Scotland London Nominees is also being sued since it held Resort's shares on Invesco's behalf. Coopers & Lybrand is being sued by different groups of creditors and shareholders.

This year PricewaterhouseCoopers, as the accountancy firm is now known, had a limited victory in court when it attempted to "strike out" a claim from more than 200 Resort shareholders.

The case, however, rumbles on and Invesco's lawyers expect their own case may reach court in 18 months to two years' time.

Feld will probably be out of jail well before the legal rows have been settled.

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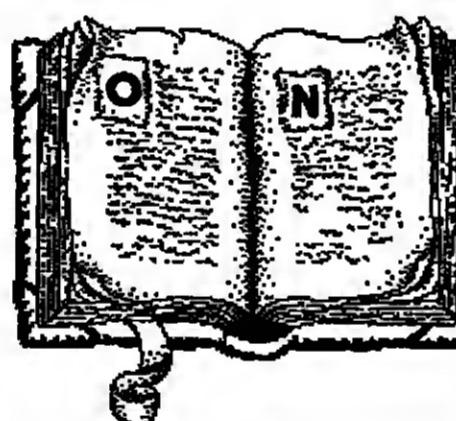
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# SPORT

**Boxing:** Briton misses golden opportunity to 'sell' unification fight with Holyfield after uninspired world title defence

## Lewis less than a knockout in US

BY  
GLYN LEACH

THE BEST-LAID plans of mice and men have come to nothing once again for Lennox Lewis. The World Boxing Council heavyweight champion's never-ending battle for recognition and respect in the United States, the spiritual home of heavyweight championship boxing, continues with little or no headway having been made by Lewis's unanimous decision victory - 119-109, 117-112, 117-111 - over Zeljko Mavrovic in Uncasville, Connecticut, on Saturday night. Once again, a Lewis performance has raised more questions than answers.

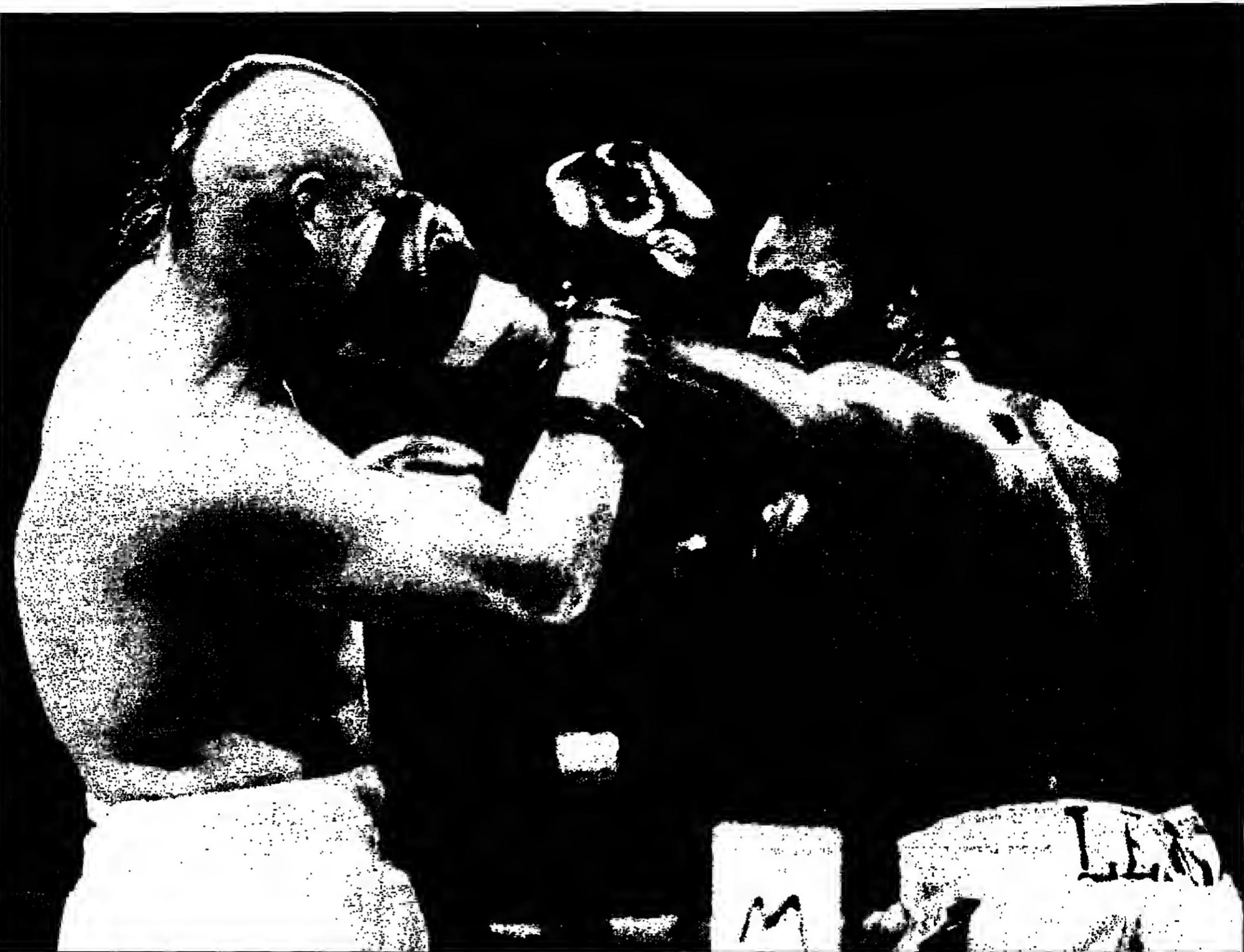
Lewis had hoped for an emphatic victory over his mandatory challenger from Zagreb, Croatia; with his fight being televised live on "free" TV in the States, Lewis believed that an impressive performance would compare favourably with that of his World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation counterpart, Evander Holyfield, who the previous weekend had looked rather ordinary in beating his IBF No 1 contender, Vaughn Bean, in another fight that was shown on mainstream TV.

But rather than enabling Lewis to steal a march on Holyfield, the win - Lewis's 34th in 35 fights - over Mavrovic has served only to confirm what the American public already suspected: that the heavyweight champions are much of a muchness. Neither had fought well enough in their latest outings for one of them to emerge as a clear leader of the pack.

"Someone's got to make this fight happen before one of them gets beat," said Lou DiBella, head of boxing at the premier subscription TV channel in the United States, Home Box Office.

One major difference between the respective fights of the rival champions was that Holyfield-Bean, in Atlanta, was watched by a crowd of over 40,000 people, while Lewis drew less than 10 per cent of that number to the Mohegan Sun casino on Native American land in the Connecticut woods. Clearly, Holyfield is viewed as the senior champion. "I don't think there's any doubt about that," admitted Lewis's trainer, Emanuel Steward. And by going the distance against Mavrovic, despite the German-based Croat's unbeaten record, Lewis has maintained what he is a frustrating status quo.

As a European heavyweight, and a white one at that, Mavrovic was expected to be blown away with ease by the WBC champion. And when the relative weights of the fighters became known on Friday, those expectations became heightened: at 15st 4 1/4lb, Mavrovic was his lightest in three-and-a-half years; Lewis, meanwhile, weighed exactly the same as he did for his last defence,



Zeljko Mavrovic feels the force of Lennox Lewis' left hand as the champion finds his range during a successful defence of his WBC heavyweight title in Connecticut on Saturday

Reuters

in March against Shannon Briggs - 17st 5lb.

The two-stone weight advantage was expected to prove decisive for Lewis. Not so. The challenger used his supposed handicap to his advantage, making the 6ft 5in Lewis look slow and lumbering at times. And Mavrovic made a nonsense of the widely held opinion that white heavyweights cannot take a punch; Lewis, without doubt the heaviest hitter of the current crop of big men,

connected cleanly with big shots throughout the bout, but he could not budge the Croat with the Mohawk hairstyle.

"Mavrovic must have 240lb of steel in his chin," commented Frank Maloney, Lewis's London-based promoter and manager.

Afterwards, Lewis tried to excuse a performance that, in reality, had very little wrong with it - quite clearly, many people had underestimated Mavrovic, who had won 27

in succession (22 KOs) entering this fight.

"Look, some fighters give you hard times," said Lewis. "He is ranked No 1. I thought I would knock him out, but give him respect, he has a great chin."

If one were to find fault with Lewis, it would be regarding what appeared to be his suspect stamina. Lewis had not gone the distance since May 1995, against Ray Mercer, and at times he appeared desper-

ately tired against Mavrovic. At the post-fight press conference, the champion was supported by two camp aides when he rose from his seat.

"Lennox was definitely huffing and puffing by the third round," said Steward. "I can't explain why - Lennox definitely trained hard for this fight. Motivation? You can never tell with these guys - they say they are ready to go, but sometimes it must be difficult for them to get up."

Indirectly, Lewis blamed Steward's tactics for his problems, strengthening belief in the wide-spread rumours that this may be the last time they work together.

"I thought I'd have it easy, but I prepared wrong for this fight," said Lewis. "I thought he was going to try and pounce by the third round." Lewis definitely trained hard for this fight. Motivation? You can never tell with these guys - they say they are ready to go, but sometimes it must be difficult for them to get up."

So, for Lewis, the struggle con-

tinues. In his 10 years as a professional following gold medal success at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, and despite his always having shown willingness to fight the best opposition available, Lewis is still regarded as the other heavyweight champion. And unless he can somehow persuade Holyfield to meet him - a fight that many believe Holyfield simply does not want, despite his statements to the contrary - that situation will remain unaltered.

## Hide must seek better credentials

HERBIE HIDE is ready to help Lennox Lewis fill his calendar should the World Boxing Council heavyweight champion's proposed fight with Evander Holyfield fail to materialise, writes Glyn Leach. Hide, the 27-year-old World Boxing Organisation champion, destroyed his solemn-faced mandatory contender, Frankfurt's Willi Fischer, after 64 seconds of round two on home ground at the Norwich Sports Village on Saturday night. And after watching Lewis defend his title against Zeljko Mavrovic later that evening in Connecticut, Hide was brimming with confidence.

"People have said I'm too small to be able to beat Lennox, but I'm not as small as Mavrovic and he did well enough," said Hide. "Mavrovic doesn't punch anywhere near as hard as me. I'm bigger and stronger than Mavrovic, and I'm much, much faster."

Against Fischer, Hide proved once more that what he lacks in size by contemporary heavyweight standards - he weighed 15st 10lb for this second defence of his second tenure as WBO champion - he makes up for with speed, accuracy and aggressive intent. Fischer, whose brow was already heavily furrowed when he en-

tered the ring with a won-lost-drawn record of 21-1-1 (16 KOs), was taken apart in round two when Hide floored the German the requisite number of times for the fight to be terminated under the WBO's three-knockdown (in one round) rule.

It was an impressive performance by the champion, who won his 31st fight (30 by KO) against one defeat (to Riddick Bowe for this title in March 1995). But there is very little chance of a WBC-WBO unification bout with Lewis taking place in the near future - at present there just is not enough interest to make it worth Lewis's while.

A series of spectacular victories over respected opposition would aid Hide's cause without even breaking sweat. Hide can blow away lesser lights like Fischer. But Lewis would be another matter entirely and Hide needs to establish a more impressive set of credentials before American television would accept him as an opponent for the WBC champion.

The evening ended in utter disappointment for another Norwich fighter, Jon Thaxton, who was stopped after two minutes, 14 seconds of round seven by an unsung American substitute, Emmanuel Burton. Thaxton lost his WBO and In-



Herbie Hide on his way to beating Willi Fischer

AP

## Strange mix of Goss' cocktail of optimism

### BOOK OF THE WEEK

Knows how to play hardball, no doubt, but on the evidence of all he has written he would not be in the top echelons of poker players. If written by someone else about him, the script would too often seem unbelievable, but it is true. If written by some other people about themselves, it would either have slipped into the turd or been so brazenly boastful that it would have been unacceptable. Goss avoids both, but not just because of his honesty but because he has a genuine talent for writing tense narrative.

Goss is neither a fool nor an angel, but he has no fear of treading a path that defies rational analysis. It comes straight from the heart. Lord knows who put together the chemical mix that fashions his character, but if he could sell it, he would be a millionaire by Christmas. To say that it has produced boundless optimism would be a pathetic understatement of the cocktail that drives this man. Even his moments of despair are conducted in the most character-building positive light.

If the book has a fault it is that it shamelessly rolls the credit for all those who have ever helped him take on the projects which are his life, sailing some of the earth's most difficult oceans on the edge of losing his life.

Even this, however, is explained. He says he has studied carefully how to approach potential sponsors and backers, so a little extra massage in print is to be expected.

What may not be expected is the way in which Goss takes you so vividly on board with him at his worst moments, including some pretty gory self-surgery. Nothing Ian Fleming ever wrote has you wondering so anxiously how the hero is going to get out of this little pickle.

Whether it be transatlantic or most spectacularly in the rescue of Frenchman Raphael Dinielli in the Southern Ocean, for which he was awarded the Légion d'Honneur, the book would be worth buying just

for those chapters. The bonus is trailer on the jacket. A triumph over adversity it says. Yes, but often that adversity was ashore. Goss's experience teaches us all a lesson.

Even the title has a double meaning. Close to the wind is generally interpreted as taking risk or being in danger. But when a boat is sailing too close to the wind it slows down, can grind to a halt, even change to a direction you did not want. Lots of people have dreams and ideas. That is the easy bit. Making them happen is the hard part. There can never be too many examples. No wonder he is being panned in as front man for a future British America's Cup campaign. Stuart Alexander

- THIS WEEK'S TOP TEN SPORTS BOOKS
- 1 Football Fans Guide, Janet Williams (Collins Willow, paperback, £9.99).
  - 2 Addicted, Tony Adams with Ian Ridley (Collins Willow, hardback, £16.99).
  - 3 Survival of the Fattest 4, Edited by David Jenkins and Judi Holly (Red Card, paperback, £9.99).
  - 4 Reg Gutteridge - My Autobiography, Reg Gutteridge with Peter Batt (Blake Publishing, hardback, £16.99).
  - 5 Rothmans Rugby Union Yearbook 1998-1999, Mick Cleary and John Griffiths, (Headline, paperback, £17.99).
  - 6 A Life In Racing - Some You Win, Julian Wilson (Collins Willow, hardback, £16.99).
  - 7 Inside the All Blacks, Robin McConnell, (Harper Collins NZ), hardback, £17.99.
  - 8 Big Ron - A Different Ball Game, Ron Atkinson and Peter Filton (Andre Deutsch, hardback, £17.99).
  - 9 Referee! A Year In The Life Of David Elleray, David Elleray (Bloomsbury, hardback, £16.99).
  - 10 The Paddy and the Prince - The Making of Naseem Hamed, Nick Pitt (Yellow Jersey, hardback, £16.00).
- Compiled by Sports Pages Bookshops, 94-96 Charing Cross Road, London W1 (0171 240 9604) and St Ann's Square, Manchester (0161 832 8530), and [www.sportspages.co.uk](http://www.sportspages.co.uk)

JEPH in VD

# Monty is back on top of his game

**COLIN MONTGOMERIE** hit the best putting streak of his career to reclaim his accustomed place on top of the Order of Merit by winning the German Masters yesterday after an excellent final round of 67.

Victory lifted the 35-year-old Scot over Lee Westwood and Darren Clarke to the top of the money list, more than £11,000 clear; and with only two events left he is the firm favourite to collect a sixth consecutive Vardon Trophy. It was Montgomerie's second win in his last four events and almost guaranteed him a place in next year's Ryder Cup after a remarkable turnaround in fortunes.

Four weeks ago, he missed

**GOLF**  
BY PHIL CASEY  
in Cologne

whether it was going right or left. I was just having a nice game of golf today until Robert Karlsson went eagle, birdie and I was one behind and knew I had to make two birdies which I did."

Those birdies came at the par-five 13th and 15th and set up a tense finish, Montgomerie having to hole a five-foot par putt on the 18th for victory. "That was more about courage than skill," he said.

Montgomerie's total of 266, 22-under-par, gave him a one-shot victory over the US PGA champion, Vijay Singh, and Sweden's Robert Karlsson, with Steve Webster a shot further back after finishing with five birdies in his last seven holes.

Westwood, who had been £22,000 ahead of Montgomerie, rallied with a last-round 66 after yesterday's 72 to finish on 17-under in a tie for sixth place. Darren Clarke, second at the start of the week, finished with a 69 and tied 21st, at 13 under.

Westwood was delighted with his last-round 66 after a disappointing 72 on Saturday ruined his chances, a birdie on the last proving valuable.

"I said a three up the last could be worth its weight in gold, it could make a big difference," Westwood said. "I gave myself a kick up the back-side last night. Yesterday was awful and blew my chances but today I redeemed myself."

Nick Faldo finished with a 68, his seventh sub-par round in the last two events, to earn some more valuable Ryder Cup points, after finishing two shots ahead of Seve Ballesteros.

Scores, Digest, page 23

the cut for a second successive week at the BMW International in Munich, the first time he has suffered such an ignominy since 1991. That prompted a return to working under Bill Ferguson after a two-year separation and putting lessons from Dave Petz, an American, and all the hard work paid off handsomely on the Jack Nicklaus-designed course with rounds of 65, 68, 66 and 67.

"It proved I'm coming through the bad spell," Montgomerie said. "When I started back with Bill I told him it would be nice to win twice by the end of the year and I've won twice in three weeks so it's encouraging. I think in the last month I've had the best putting statistics of my whole career."

"I'm not playing 100 per cent but I'm able to go for shots where before I didn't know



The sea churns as 1,700 competitors begin the first discipline of yesterday's Nice Triathlon on the French Riviera won by the Dutchman Rob Barel, who completed the gruelling swim-cycle-run event in 5hr 50min 27sec, ahead of the Frenchman Jérôme Sanson

AP

## Old Boys take control

**HOCKEY**  
BY BILL COLWILL

John Read at another penalty corner settled the game.

Coventry and North Warwick's new coach, Gavin Featherton, got off to a good start with a 3-1 win against Chesterfield, with two goals from Chris Roberts on his comeback and a goal from Adrian Adams. Paul Speed replaced for Chesterfield.

With new signing Richard Ambrose injured in a car accident on Saturday and without the Dey brothers, West Herts fell to a 3-0 defeat by near rivals Blueharts. Jersey notched eight goals without reply against Bodmin Dragons, while former winners Nottingham won 9-2 at Worcester Norton.

Eastcote completed their warm-up programme for their first National League season - unveiling a new sponsor, Diamond Motor Co - with a useful 4-4 draw at Premier Division Guildford gained thanks to a hat-trick from Peter Gibbons and a string of brave saves from their new goalkeeper, the Welsh Under-21 international, George Harris.

The day's biggest victory was Bowdon's 15-0 demolition of South Shields, with Richard Midgley and David Egerton each scoring five times, Geoff Price and Bob Baker adding a brace each and Will Marshall completing the rout. The day's top goalscorer was Old Georgians' Guy Merchant with six in their 13-0 victory against Horley.

## Sheffield move clear

**BASKETBALL**  
BY RICHARD TAYLOR

Gaudio then added nine free throws in the final period, the last two opening a 91-87 lead before a deciding three-pointer from London's Dwayne Morton took the final score to 91-90 for the Sharks.

Derby's four-game winning start ended in a 109-105 overtime defeat at home to Newcastle Eagles, who won their first game of the season.

Ralph Blalock scored nine of Newcastle's 13 points in the extra period after his team-mate Carl Miller had tied the full-time scores on 96-96 with two free throws.

Leicester still wait for their first win after a 106-101 over-

time defeat at Worthing Bears. The Riders led 92-88 with only 19 seconds left in regulation time but Larry Coates forced overtime with a three-pointer at 94-94.

Gene Waldron returned to the Riders for the first time since breaking his leg in last January's cup final and gave them a 99-98 lead, but the Bears hit the next seven points, Jason Boone led all scorers with 38 points for Leicester; but despite the return of Waldron the team are still lacking a point guard after being unable to re-sign Gene Ford, who has remained in America to obtain a masters degree.

Manchester Giants, inspired by a 25-point haul from Tony Dorsey, overcame Milton Keynes Lions 86-64.

## Golding all alone in the lead

**SAILING**  
BY STUART ALEXANDER

**MIKE GOLDING**, of Britain, was leading the Around Alone race after the first 24 hours. He has coaxed the 60-foot Group 4 into a seven-mile advantage after leaving Charleston, South Carolina, on the 6,750-mile first leg to Cape Town.

Chasing him in equal second was another Briton, Josh Hall and France's Isobelle Autissier. In their 60-footers, Gartmore Investments and PRB, with another Frenchman, Marc Thiercelin, fourth in Some-

where, and, unexpectedly, one of the favourites, Italy's Giovanni Soldini, fifth in Fila.

But Soldini was taking a more northerly route as the fleet picked its way through some light north-easterlies, bunting for solid breeze which will take them south. The problem is in skirting the huge patches of light winds left in the wake of Hurricane George and the fear that the area ofドルムズ will be unusually large.

Ian Walker dedicated his share in the Melges 24 World Championship at the weekend to Johnny Merricks, in tribute to his former Olympic partner.

The 1996 silver medal pair in the 470 dinghy was leading the European championship for the Melges when a car crash claimed the life of Merricks last year in Italy.

The Italian, Giorgio Zuccoli,

wrote in to the final day in the lead having put enough distance between himself and the American, Brian Porter, to hope he could add the world title to the European one he won in 1996.

However, the Italian was pipped by Walker and had his appeal at an appeals meeting thrown out, when he claimed that Walker had unfairly used lighter crew on board for four of the races, which were staged in lighter conditions.

Walker is the reigning world champion for 1,500m at both long-course (50m pool) and short-course (25m pool), but has always lived in the shadow of Perkins.

Hackett won the long-course world title in Perth in January when Perkins failed to make the Australian team, before easily beating him to win the gold at the Challenge Stadium in the West Australian capital of Perth.

He was more than two seconds under record pace at the 500m mark and more than four

## Adelaide win final verdict

**ADELAIDE** CONTINUED to celebrate the successful defence of their Australian Football League title, with a crowd of 50,000 welcoming home the team which beat North Melbourne by 35 points on Saturday.

Fans started arriving at the Adelaide Showgrounds early yesterday morning to get a prime position and entertained themselves with repeated singing of the club song.

Adelaide won Saturday's final 15.15.(105) to 8.22.(70) at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. The team will be honoured again on Tuesday with a motorcade through the city, an event that attracted 120,000 people last year.

Captain Mark Bickley felt that this year's victory was probably even more special

than last year's first Premiership for the club. "It was just fantastic," he said. "A lot of people thought we wouldn't go as far as we did, but we hung in there and came up trumps."

Adelaide made a remarkable second-half comeback before a crowd of almost 95,000, including the former boxing champion Muhammad Ali, the half-time guest of honour.

Adelaide's Darren Jarman and Andrew McLeod excelled for the second year in a row - Jarman was the top scorer while McLeod was voted best player in the final.

North, winners of their previous 11 matches and pre-match favourites, wasted their chances with poor kicking.

Now, winners of their previous 11 matches and pre-match favourites, wasted their chances with poor kicking.

was not the role Olano sought.

Now he has upstaged Spain's most celebrated racer by winning the Vuelta. The closest Indurain came was second in 1991.

Olano still has his critics - not least Pedro Delgado, who won the 1988 Tour de France and the Vuelta a year later. "You can usually say the best rider won the Vuelta but this time it was the best team," Delgado

wrote in the Spanish sports paper Marca. "Olano has not demonstrated that he is a brilliant winner. When he had a bad day he did not know how to respond at the critical moment."

Olano countered: "When you have the leader's yellow jersey you need to ride defensively."

But Spanish supporters are just happy that the yellow jersey will stay at home this year.

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wrote in the Spanish sports paper Marca. "Olano has not demonstrated that he is a brilliant winner. When he had a bad day he did not know how to respond at the critical moment."

# Sunspangled enjoys her second wind

BY SUE MONTGOMERY  
at Ascot

**THE REASONS** why horses do not win races would fill a small library with a large fiction section. But Aidan O'Brien's explanation after Sunspangled avenged two previous defeats by Edabiya to win the Group One Fillies' Mile here yesterday was a new one, though it owed nothing to the imagination.

The pretty chestnut had acted as a windbreak on her previous outing, when she led the Moygar Stud Stakes field into the teeth of a gale at the Curragh three weeks ago. "She was out on her own being buffeted with the others sheltering behind her," said her trainer, "so of course she was tired at the end. But we knew why she'd finished only fifth, so we saw no reason not to take on the winner again and give her the chance to show how good she is."

This time it was Sunspangled's turn to take cover, and the change of tactics worked the oracle. Mick Kinane produced the daughter of Caerleon to tackle Edabiya well inside the final furlong and put

her white-starred head in front in the last few strides.

A neck behind her Calando finished strongly to nick second place from Edabiya by a short-head, and although close finishes are often perceived to be an indication of the ordinary that is surely not the case here as it was a full nine lengths back to fourth-placed Alabaa.

The time of the race, faster than the colt's equivalent, the

**RICHARD EDMONDSON**  
Nap: Steer Point  
(Exeter 2.40)  
NB: Sconced  
(Hamilton 2.50)

Royal Lodge Stakes, an hour earlier, was very creditable considering the testing underfoot conditions and all three fillies are regarded as material for next year's Classics.

Sunspangled, one of the high-class bunch of juveniles who run from Ballydoyle for the Michael Tabor/John Magnier team, was only the second Irish-trained winner in 25 runnings of the Fillies' Mile, after Icing back in 1975. The Oaks is the ob-

vious target for the stoutly-bred filly, a half-sister to ill-fated French Ballerina, but O'Brien warned: "She has plenty of speed and can quicken, and we'll be thinking of the Guineas too. She is a lovely filly with a lovely temperament."

Calando, bred by Sheikh Mohammed from his 1987 winner of the race, Dimmundo, was slightly chopped for room early in the straight and lost nothing (except the £103,550 first prize) in defeat. An ambitious tilt at the juvenile fillies' race at the Breeders' Cup meeting at Churchill Downs in early November is still on the cards for the daughter of Storm Cat.

Her trainer, David Loder, who reported his Queen Elizabeth II Stakes hero Desert Prince in rude health yesterday after his exertions of Saturday, said: "It's a big plan but she was closing very fast and there is another 16th of a furlong) in Kentucky, which could make all the difference."

Sheikh Mohammed had to be content with the runner-up spot in the Royal Lodge Stakes too after his brother Hamdan's Mutahab won Glamis and the fading favourite Desaru,

Group 2 prize by half a length,

an exact replication of the form shown by the two colts when they met at Goodwood 17 days ago. Then, Mutahab made all; this time he came from behind and showed great resolution to squeeze between Glamis and the fading favourite Desaru,

and give the two a narrow lead.

who got rather bogged down in the ground, well inside the final furlong for his fourth victory from six outings.

But there was a two-year-old

winner in the maroon and white in the shape of Mukhalif, another Caerleon offspring, will now begin his winter holiday in Dubai, leaving Loder stablesmates such as Berlitz and Luqain to deal with the promising newcomer.

Mutaahab (Richard Hills, left) wears down Glamis (Frankie Dettori) to win the Royal Lodge Stakes at Ascot yesterday Robert Hollam

## HAMILTON

**HYPERION**  
4.20 FRIAR TUCK (nap)  
4.50 Executive Choice  
5.25 Trailblazer

**GOWNS:** Good in soft (soft in places).  
**DRAW ADVANTAGE:** High for St and St.

Right-hand undulating course with paved-sloped loops.

Course: 1 m 6 fts 1 in on tarmac (0.217). Hamilton West station services from Glasgow 4 m.

**ADMISSION:** Children 20 pence, over 16 £1.00, under 16 £0.50, OAPs £0.40, disabled & students. Accompanied under 16s free all admissions. CAR PARK: Free.

**LEADING TRAINERS:** M Johnson 30-190 (21%), P Haskin 21-102 (20%), Mrs M Revoley 19-132 (14.4%), L Pernell 23-230 (8.2%), P Haslam 17-102 (12.7%), J Weatherby 45-172 (20.7%), K Darley 33-204 (16.2%), J Carroll 25-227 (12.2%), N Kennealy 12-104 (14.4%), G Outfield 14-92 (5.2%).

**FAVOURITES:** 227-519 (17%)

**LONG DISTANCE RUNNERS:** Volla Premiere (3.20) has been sent 441 miles, blinkered first time; Happy Days (5.20).

**BLINKED FIRST TIME:** Happy Days (5.20).

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# Britain soar into top flight

ON ONE of the most wonderful cold, grey, damp days British tennis has enjoyed for ages, the Davis Cup team defeated India and qualified for the World Group after six years' absence.

Now the nation has two players capable of making the elite take notice. Only two, mind you, and unless reinforcements can be inspired to support Tim Henman and Greg Rusedski, the campaign in the top 16 might founder.

With time enough to ponder the task ahead after the draw for next year's competition is made on 8 October, we must celebrate the team's renaissance since Rusedski's arrival from Canada in 1995 coincided with the emergence of Henman and David Lloyd's appointment as the captain.

Henman had the distinction of securing victory against India yesterday with a forehand volley that dispelled fears that the inclement weather would close in and disrupt the proceedings. "I haven't practised very much with sponges before," Henman joked. Nor had the 24-year-old from Oxford had to contend with a Davis Cup opponent as gifted, intelligent and persistent as Leander Paes, the Indian No 1.

Even the closing point involved a brisk, exciting, inventive exchange of shots as Paes, supposedly drained of energy, aching in the right shoulder and favouring a bruised left heel, fought to extend his option. The watching Rused-

**TENNIS**  
BY JOHN ROBERTS  
in Nottingham

skied all about Paes' skill and determination, having saved a match point before winning the opening match in five sets on Friday.

Henman prevailed in a third set tie-break 7-5, to win, 7-6, 6-2, 7-6, after two hours and three minutes, giving Britain a decisive 3-1 lead. "It was definitely the best Davis Cup match I've played," Henman said.

"It was a high pressure situation, playing an opponent against whom you didn't know what to expect. I wouldn't say there was that much wrong with him, except maybe a slightly bruised heel. What he was trying to do was a pretty good idea. Serving without much pace and walking as if he can't move could have been a distraction, but I was not going to be distracted."

Henman, having held serve to lead 5-2 after three consecutive breaks in the opening set, met with a crisis when serving for the set at 5-3. Paes unnerved Henman with a spectacular forehand down the line for 30-30 and then pounced on the Briton's second serves before breaking him with a high backhand volley. The Indian then missed two volleys as Henman steadied his game to win the tie-break, 7-3, after 49 minutes.



Tim Henman concentrates on beating India's Leander Paes yesterday to put Great Britain back in the Davis Cup World Group Allsport

The second set took less than half an hour; Henman breaking for 2-1 and holding his concentration well apart from one waver when, after winning 10 consecutive points, he was taken from 40-0 to deuce.

Two sets to the good, it seemed that only the weather could come between Henman and a flourishing win - at which point Paes showed more of the resourcefulness that had taken Rusedski to the brink and was the undoing of Henman and Neil Broad in Saturday's

splendid doubles win with Mahesh Bhupathi, 7-6, 6-2, 7-6.

Paes broke for 2-0 in the third set, helped by two Henman double-faults, and although the Briton recovered immediately, the Indian continued to be hard to shake off. If Paes was on his last legs, any number of the competitors in the Nottingham marathon would have traded with him.

With Paes leading, 4-3 on serve, drizzle prompted the referee, Gabriel Mata, of Spain, to inspect the rubberised-con-

crete court. He decided that play could continue, although Henman would have accepted a rain delay. "It's easy for the referee to say it's all right," Henman said, "because he's not the one who's going to run around and slip on the lines."

Fortunately, there were no mishaps in that respect. Paes went on to lead 3-1 in the tie-break, Henman drawing level with a smash and reaching match point when the Indian missed a backhand.

Rusedski withdrew from the

dead rubber, complaining of a sore heel. Hampshire's Chris Wilkinson, substituting, was defeated by Bhupathi, 6-3, 6-4, to make the final score 3-2.

Henman, while delighted in the promotion, did not overlook the potential manning problems. "Both Greg and I believe that on a given day we can beat anybody," he said. "But we do need more players. It should be a great incentive for the others to fill the gaps now we're in the premier league."

Having played an important

part in raising the perception of British tennis, Henman made an interesting observation. "The crowd all three days have been great," he said, "but you only have to look at the average age, and it ain't too young. We'll have to start giving more tickets to the schools, so they can watch tennis and get involved."

For once, however, it is encouraging to report that Britain's players are not in the zone.

Results, Digest, page 23

## McGwire homing in on run record

### BASEBALL

MARK McGWIRE, of the St Louis Cardinals, smashed two home runs on Saturday, almost guaranteeing himself ownership of baseball's hallowed single-season record of long balls.

The two blasts, his 67th and 68th of the campaign, came in a defeat in St Louis against the Montreal Expos on the next-to-last day of the regular season.

However, McGwire's neck-and-neck challenger for the record, Sammy Sosa of the Chicago Cubs, had a bitter-sweet night in Houston.

He failed to knock one out of the park at the Astrodome and now trails McGwire by two home runs, despite his club gaining a vital win to remain in the National League play-off picture.

"I might never let this season go... it might never happen again," McGwire said.

McGwire could well have ended the great home run derby a day early, and the Cardinals' backup catcher Tom Lampkin was tipping him to reach 70 as the season drew to a close late last night. "All it takes is a couple of mistakes, and he's got it," Lampkin said. "You watch him. There's something special about the way he's going about his business."

Yesterday Sosa had all but conceded the contest. "It doesn't look good, but I still have a chance," he said after a pair of singles in Chicago's 3-2 win at Houston. "I've always been saying Mark is going to finish ahead of me."

"Obviously, it feels nice," McGwire said. "But I've got one more game, and so does [Sosa]. I think he's got bigger and better things on his mind, helping the Cubs get into the playoffs."

Chicago, after beating the Astros 3-2, were tied with the San Francisco Giants in the wild-card race before the final day's play, with the New York Mets just one game back.

But in a bizarre twist, Sosa

could be given a lifeline in the home run chase by being awarded an extra game if the Cubbies have the same number of wins and losses as the Giants after today. The two teams would face each other in a one-game play-off to decide who goes to the post-season.

McGwire was philosophical about the prospect of Sosa catching or surpassing him with an extra game.

"There's nothing I can do about it," he said. "I'll be home on the beach, so, sorry."

## Italy rout makeshift US to reach Davis Cup final

ITALY CAUSED a major upset by taking an unassailable 3-0 lead over the United States in their Davis Cup World Group semi-final when Diego Nargiso and Andrea Gaudenzi beat a makeshift American doubles team of Todd Martin and Justin Gimelstob in Milwaukee.

The Italians held off a determined comeback effort by the American pair to win 6-4, 7-6, 5-7, 6-3. Victory leaves Italy seeking their second Davis Cup title and first since 1976 when they host the defending champions, Sweden, in the final on 4 December.

The United States had won their last 18 home ties, but with leading players refusing to appear in the semi-finals they fell behind after Friday's singles, when Gaudenzi beat the Davis Cup debutant, Jan-Michael Gambill, and Davide Sanguineti defeated Martin.

Sweden overcame Spain 4-1 to advance to their fourth final in five years. Jonas Bjorkman beat Carlos Moya 6-3, 7-6 yesterday for his third victory of the weekend. But he may only get doubles duty if the Italians now decide that the finals will be played on a clay surface.

"I think they'll choose clay and that means it will be difficult for me to get a singles spot," Bjorkman said. "It might be that the clay-court guys have to step in and play the final."

Clay is Bjorkman's weakest surface. Even though indoor

part in raising the perception of British tennis, Henman made an interesting observation. "The crowd all three days have been great," he said, "but you only have to look at the average age, and it ain't too young. We'll have to start giving more tickets to the schools, so they can watch tennis and get involved."

For once, however, it is encouraging to report that Britain's players are not in the zone.

Results, Digest, page 23

### BATH

HYPERION  
2.00 Fantastic Belle 2.30 Dominant Duchess  
3.00 Wait For The Will 3.30 Anemos 4.00 Rock  
Falcon 4.30 Oaks Kite

GOING: Good.  
STALLS: Straight course for side; round course inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low best & 5th outsiders

■ Left-hand, undulating course. Four furlong run-in bends to the left and right.

Course is 2m NW of city near A431. Bath station 2m.

ADMISSION: £10 C13, Tattersalls £15, Silver Ring £5, Course

for each passenger; remainder free.

■ LEADING TRAINERS: J. Bell 20-68 (24%), P. Collet 15-80 (17%), D. H. Smith 12-71 (13%), T. Odell 21-143 (17%).  
■ LEADING JOCKEYS: J. Reid 22-131 (16%), T. Odell 21-143 (17%), Martin Dwyer 13-78 (16%), T. Spike 13-142 (16%).  
■ FAVOURITES: TM-494 (35%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Honey Stukas (second), 430

### 3.00 E.B.F. DODDINGTON MAIDEN STAKES

(CLASS D) £10,000 added 2YO 1m 2f

1. 5005 BERGAMO (17) ■ Nasella 0 0 ... J. Falzon 4  
2. 00 COMPTON ACE (44) ■ G. Butler 9 0 ... J. Collier 10  
3. 0 DIVOLO (28) ■ W. McLean 0 0 ... J. Reid 10  
4. 0 DESIRELY (20) ■ R. Miller 0 0 ... T. Sparks 2  
5. 0 SON OF SURGE (9) ■ P. Collet 0 0 ... T. Collier 0  
6. 0 SUMMER'S DAY (40) ■ M. Jones 0 0 ... M. Dwyer 8  
7. 0 DODDINGTON (19) ■ J. Reid 0 0 ... J. Reid 10  
8. 0 WAT FOR THE WILL (USA) (13) ■ B. Whitham 0 0 ... A. Weston 11  
9. 0 00200 FLEUR D'YON (7) ■ P. Collet 0 0 ... P. Dowd 5  
10. 00000 FLOW (12) ■ G. Butler 0 0 ... G. Butler 5  
11. 0 POLAR PEAK (12) ■ G. Butler 0 0 ... G. Butler 5

BETTING: 11-10 Bergamo, 2-1 Will For The Will, 6-1 Son of Surge, 18-1 Redelphi, 20-1 Topic Dancer, 21-1 Divedelic, 33-1 others

#### FIRM VERDICT

This is a stiff test of stamina for juveniles at this time, but Bergamo has been running though it is just what he needs to bring out the best in him. He will compensate for the Jockey Club's decision to run him in the handicap stakes if he is expected to have the services of Sylvestre Franconi.

#### FORM VERDICT

ADULATION meets some of his rivals with form on better terms than he would in a handicap and, with the possibility that he will prove even more effective over this extra quarter-mile, it is expected to have the services of Sylvestre Franconi.

#### FORM VERDICT

Hyperion is the pick of the bunch, having won 10 of his 12 starts and is in fine form. He is the only horse to have beaten Bergamo in recent races and is the only one to have beaten the likes of Divedelic and Topic Dancer.

#### FORM VERDICT

Wait For The Will is the clear choice. He has won 11 of his 12 starts and is in excellent form. He has beaten Bergamo and Topic Dancer.

#### FORM VERDICT

Divedelic has won 10 of his 12 starts and is in excellent form. He has beaten Bergamo and Topic Dancer.

#### FORM VERDICT

Redelphi has won 10 of his 12 starts and is in excellent form. He has beaten Bergamo and Topic Dancer.

#### FORM VERDICT

Topic Dancer has won 10 of his 12 starts and is in excellent form. He has beaten Bergamo and Redelphi.

#### FORM VERDICT

Dodal has won 10 of his 12 starts and is in excellent form. He has beaten Bergamo and Redelphi.

#### FORM VERDICT

G. Butler has won 10 of his 12 starts and is in excellent form. He has beaten Bergamo and Redelphi.

#### FORM VERDICT

Flow has won 10 of his 12 starts and is in excellent form. He has beaten Bergamo and Redelphi.

### EXETER

HYPERION

2.10 Navarre Samson 2.40 Steer Point 3.10 Niknaks Nephew 3.40 Pride Of Kashmir 4.10 Palasem 4.40 Shilling

GOING: Good to Firm (Good in places).

■ Right-hand, undulating course. Staff test of stamina. Run-In of 220 yards.

■ Course is 5m SW of Exeter on A38. ADMISSION: Grandstand & Paddock £11; Silver Ring £5. Accompanied under-16s free. CAR PARK: E2 on race day; £2 members; remainder free.

■ LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 62-227 (262), Miss H Knight 31-21 (222), P Hobbs 22-14 (197), R Frost 10-142 (34%).

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 27-122 (209), P. Holley 8-81 (31%).

■ FAVOURITES: TM-261 (19) ■ Falcon 23 (Bob Knowles 20), G. Butler 22-1 (P. Holley 20), 25-1 Steer Point 22 (Bob Knowles 20), 26-1 Niknaks Nephew 21 (Miss H Knight 21), 28-1 Palasem 20 (P. Holley 20), 30-1 Shilling 21 (Miss H Knight 21).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Falcon 23, Bob Knowles 20, G. Butler 22-1, Niknaks Nephew 21, Palasem 20, Shilling 21.

BETTING: 4-6 Navarre Samson, 6-4 Steer Point, 8-1 others

#### FIRM VERDICT

Purists could keep the horses in this race to see if the ground is genuinely racing as test of stamina the going description implies - the course reportedly had two and a half inches of rain up until Saturday evening, which is quite a soaking. Martin Pipe's French import SADLER'S SECRET will not be inconvenienced by any cut and is an educated guess to make the most of a sensible weight concession from dual winner Navarre Samson.

#### FORM VERDICT

Navarre Samson is the pick of the bunch as he has improved on a steady basis and, as such, and at a steady clip, may be one to look forward to. Crossing distance CELTIC SEASON will not be inconvenienced by any cut, as it is the type to do better over longer and comes from a yard which does well here, so he may be worth chasing.

#### FORM VERDICT

Steer Point is a solid performer and, with a steady improvement on a steady basis, he is the one to look forward to. He is the type to do better over longer and comes from a yard which does well here, so he may be worth chasing.

#### FORM VERDICT

Niknaks Nephew is the clear choice. He has won 11 of his 12 starts and is in excellent form. He has beaten Navarre Samson and Steer Point.

#### FORM VERDICT

P











Priest found killed at home

# Graham move would suit all concerned

HE WORE a bomber jacket, heavy boots and a skinhead haircut and he moved towards George Graham with a sense of purpose. Graham looked up at the stocky figure blocking his path and paused. The man ushered his son forward, an autograph was signed, a cheery word exchanged.

So much for running a gauntlet of hate. Graham may have red-and-white blood coursing through his veins but Spurs appear to be so desperate for a respectable side they do not care who produces it. Apart from a plaintive banner paraphrasing Pink Floyd with the appeal "Oh, Graham, leave our Spurs alone" the only abuse the ex-Arsenal manager received was the sporadic calls of "Judas" from the Leeds fans.

It could be that the Tottenham support are still getting their heads round the concept of having their "Great Satan" in Bill Nick's chair. David Pleat, the stand-in manager, suggested they "don't know what to think" and if they were confused before the game they must have been bewildered after it. Graham's CV marks him out as a footballing Clint Eastwood on frills efficiency and o'er ever mind the body count. But his team defended like the Marx Brothers, all slapstick and high farce.

In Graham's favour they were also given a powerful demonstration of how he can inspire players. This was one of Tottenham's most committed performances for a long time and much of that was due to the players knowing their probable future employer was looking on. Graham dealt better with the situation than his players judging by their uncharacteristic lapses in concentration. He said that Peter Ridsdale, Leeds' chairman, was still to give Alan Sugar permission to speak to him, but made it clear he wanted and expected to go. There was an indirect suggestion that Leeds was out of the spotlight but the capital's main

For Tottenham the attraction is obvious. Apart from the early part of Gerry Francis' reign, and a brief period when Richard Gough was centre-half, they have not been defensively sound since Mike England retired. As the Arsenal back four continue to demonstrate Graham is a good organiser of defences – and prior to Saturday Leeds had



**GLENN MOORE**

Tottenham Hotspur  
Leeds United

conceded one goal in six games. He will also trim Tottenham's overpaid, under-achieving playing staff, shipping out anyone not prepared to put team before individual. To judge from Tottenham's work-rate word has got round.

What is not likely to do is give responsibility to "lair" players, those footballers who can open defences with something different. In many cases the inspiration of such players outstrips their perspiration but, with the long-ball game outdated, teams need such players, the Cantonas, the Bergkamps, to win titles.

That trait, combined with Graham's generally defensive outlook, is why his departure may be good for Leeds. They have gone as far as they can without investing in two or three "quality" players without whom they will beat average teams but only stop good ones. Graham recognises Leeds need strengthening, but has claimed that insufficient money is available – a claim Leeds dispute. This may be the reason for the Leeds support singing "stand up if you want the truth".

Either way, Graham's record suggests it is irrelevant. At Arsenal he bought 24 footballers but, apart from the bizarre double-signing of Glenn Hoddle and Chris Kiwomya in his final days, only Anders Limpar would be called an artistic player; Ian Wright, though a formidable goalscorer, is a grifter and not a creator.

At £2.5m Wright was his biggest buy at Highbury and only £2.25m David Hopkins has exceeded it of the 13 players (average fee: £1m) he has signed at Leeds. Value for money is the principle, but it means only Harry Kewell, an inherited youth player, provides fantasy, with Gunnar Helgesson's presence in midfield indicative of the team's prosaic nature.

Graham has changed to an extent. Leeds do not play long-ball football, they play swift



Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink slides in for Leeds' second goal at White Hart Lane on Saturday

**Elliott is left free to grab a point**

BY PHIL SHAW

Leicester City  
Wimbledon

TWO LATE headed goals enlivened a drab spectacle in the drizzle at Filbert Street yesterday. Wimbledon, having led through Robbie Earle with a quarter of an hour remaining, were within three minutes of the dizzy heights of second place in the Premiership when Matt Elliott equalised for Leicester.

Wimbledon, the perennial relegation favourites, will still enter October lying third, but their performance was more in keeping with a side striving to insure against the drop rather than one aspiring to a European place. As the more enterprising of two modest outfit, Leicester fully deserved to take only their second point in five matches.

It was hilled as Sky's "Super Sunday" game, but "superfuous" or "stupifying" often seemed more appropriate adjectives until the final exchange of goals. Even the one moment of controversy, when the referee awarded nothing more than a free-kick against Kasey Keller after the Leicester keeper handled the ball outside the penalty box, was something of a storm in a satellite dish.

Keller was clearly out of his area when he gathered a long through-ball which was being half-heartedly chased down by Marcus Gayle. Using his common sense, Alan Wilkie deemed it no more than an error of judgement. The referees' officer of the Premier League, Philip Don, took a different view.

Don, who called upon managers to stop criticising officials last week, chose the half-time interval in the comfort of the outside broadcast studio to do exactly that himself. "In that situation there's no room for interpretation," he said. "Once the free-kick is given, he has to go. It's a clear denial of an obvious scoring opportunity."

By the strict letter of the law, Don may have been right. By any sensible standards, he was talking rubbish. What is more, there would probably have been a riot had Mr Wilkie banned Keller.

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# MONDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

## Labour's Earth Mother

Clare Short has had her problems. With Tony Blair. With the boy she gave up for adoption. Even with the people of Montserrat. But now, at 52, she says she's happier than ever. And it can't just be the power of Badeadas

We've all come to think of Clare Short as such an un-sly, seriously impassioned, proper sort of person, that I wonder if she ever does anything stupidously frivolous as part of her regular routine like, say, queuing first thing on Tuesday for Hello!, or experimenting with Sun In, or buying yet another lipstick because you're sure this is the one you've been waiting all your life, which it is, until you realise it isn't.

She says no, these are not her particular weaknesses: "But I often do my red boxes in the bath." Do you put anything nice in your bath, Clare? "I used to have cheap bubbles, but they weren't really a bargain, because you have to use a lot, and keep buying bottles, so now I've got..." Yes? Yes? "Badeadas." Badeadas? "A bit extravagant, I know." Actually, Clare, Badeadas is so hideously extravagant you can get it down Superdrug for £2.99! "Well, I once went to Rotterdam to stay with my friend and her mother gave me a bath with Badeadas, and I just thought it was such a great luxury..."

So, no - not a flimsy or trifling woman. Indeed, I think if she and Alan Clark were, say, the last man and woman left on earth, he still might not make a play for her. This, of course, is intended as a compliment, and I'm sure she'll take it as such. She may even think there can be no greater one.

This is not, however, to say Clare isn't beautiful. Or sexy. She is both, I think. Although, at



Will Webster



THE DEBORAH ROSS INTERVIEW

the height of the tabloids' various vendettas against her (especially when she was campaigning against Page 3), she was described as "too ugly to rape" with hair "you could fry chips in", it's just absurdly untrue. She is, actually, tremendously fine to look at. She has excellent cheekbones. ("I used to think I was an Eskimo foundling.") She has slender, well-turned ankles. ("Do you think so? How nice, thank you.") She has a terrific bosom, one which, if it ever appeared on Page 3, would have to continue on page 4 and possibly 5.

Her grey, very un-Barbra Follet, possibly viscose, shirt stretches with a great deal of effort across it. Her shirt is probably Richards or Waldis or Dorothy Perkins. "I don't care about things, then take or leave them. I don't have time for endless shopping." So, no personal shopping consultant at Selfridges, then, but do you have a New Labour personal trainer yet? "No. Although I understand Cherie has one," she replies mischievously, with a naughty little look in her Eskimo eyes.

Now Secretary of State for International Development, we meet at her department, which is housed on a floor of a nasty, modern, high-rise in Victoria. She says the department will be moving out soon, although she isn't sure where they'll be going. I say she can have the spare room in my house, if she likes, in exchange for a bit of hoovering and childcare and the promise that I have free use of her Badeadas, should I want it, although I'm not sure I do. She says that sounds a fine idea "although there are 900 of us". I say that's OK. My mother being a Jewish mother, can come over to cook. My mother can't help cooking for 900, even when she's only making a TV supper for my dad.

Clare says that is just like her mother, Joan, with whom she still shares a house when she returns to her Birmingham constituency at weekends. "She produces great feasts. She can't help herself. She would give me six meals a day if she could, and spoils me endlessly."

Clare does, yes, give off this great charge of womanly warmth. Indeed, the first thing she does when we meet is tuck in the tag on my T-shirt which, being a sophisticated, together kind of person, seems to be sticking out the back. "Thanks mum," I say. "That's alright love," she says. You can't imagine Harriet Harman doing such a thing; on the other side, Anne Widdecombe, whom Clare once saw "having her nails done in Army & Navy. There is this sweet, vulnerable bit in her but, you know, she's in favour of capital punishment, and against abortion in all circumstances, even when someone's been RAPED..."

Clare is superbly motherly. She does, of course, have the one child, her son Toby, with whom she was recently reunited, having given him up for adoption in 1964. She wears a little

locket round her neck, which Toby gave her, and which contains a sweet, penny-sized photograph of him and her, smiling like mad. Toby, a city lawyer, was a Tory when they first rediscovered each other which, I say, must have made for some interesting discussions. Yes, she says, "but then he snuck off and joined the Labour party when I wasn't watching! I care about his values, of course, but would never have said to him: 'You must join the Labour party.' It wouldn't have been right. But then he went and did it on his own, which I thought was rather nice."

I suppose I should say at this point that I've always believed no one in their right mind would ever want to be a politician, that you have to be socially or emotionally crippled in some way, that you have to have something missing in your nature that desperately needs filling. I think this may be true of Clare, too, although in a rather different way to most. Her empty place was the space Toby would have filled had she been able to hang on to him. But she couldn't, and neither could she ever have any more children. A bad run in with an intrauterine device, just before she entered politics, saw to that. "I'm a victim of the coil, whose possible long term effects on fertility were not known when it was first introduced." So all her mothering instincts - that capacity mothers have to show passionately love, protect and care - had to go into something else, and that something else was politics. She could not shape her own child's life, but she could help shape the lives of others, and perhaps make them better. When I put this to her in my clumsy, sub-Anthony Clare way, she, surprisingly, accepts there might be something in it. Giving up Toby, she says, "transformed my life. There was always this big gap that made me restless."

In short, what I'm saying, is that the Labour Party ultimately became her child, which in some ways is good, because it's meant she has always properly cared, unlike most politicians, who either tend to be in it for personal advancement, or at least get waylaid by it. Clare has, yes, seen this happen often. "I think, personally, that most who enter politics start off with a sense of wanting to make the world a better place, but quite

a lot of that gets inverted by the process. By becoming an important person, they end up confusing their advancement with the advancement of the things they used to believe in. Hubris, is, certainly, the disease of politics. The health and safety commission should send everyone a warning!" But in other ways it's not so good, because when a child starts going off in a direction you don't want them to go into, it can hurt quite a lot. New Labour has hurt Clare quite a lot. I think. Although she does appear to largely be coming round to what it's now grown into.

When she was removed, pre-election, from Transport, after a chronicle of outspokenness (a cavalier remark on cannabis legalisation, a statement that people "like me" could afford to pay more tax, the suggestion that the British citizens of Montserrat "will be asking for golden elephants next") she gave a frank interview in the *New Statesman* criticising "the people in the dark" behind Tony Blair, and warning: "These people are making a terrible error. They think that Labour is unelectable, so they want to get something else elected..."

Now though, she says: "If you are a political party that seeks election, there is no point in being right if you can't win." But, I say, if a party changes itself just to win, then it's betraying itself and its roots, and that's wrong. She says: "I think, when Labour kept losing, then it was betraying itself." She adds: "OK, I did worry that, with some of the reforms, we were throwing the baby out with the bath water. But now, I'm more and more content we haven't. This government hasn't been perfect. There have been mistakes. There have been some little style things I didn't like. But, as I said to Tony after the thing in the rose garden where he launched the annual report - which was a bit glossy, and the rose garden was a bit whitehousey - but as I said to him: 'Tony, I think this government isn't too bad!' And he said: 'Coming from you, Clare, that is little."

Has Clare genuinely become reconciled to New Labour? Mostly, I think, although she can't resist the odd delicious swipe every now and then. Later, when we come to discuss Derek Draper, I say what I can not understand is how someone like him, who seems no more than a vain, gobby yuppie, could have been taken so seriously in the highest places. She says: "Well, he was only taken seriously in one high place, wasn't he?"

Although she claims not to be especially attracted to power, she does like being in power: "We used to sit around in pubs saying the world bank should do this and that; and now I go to the world bank, and say shouldn't we be doing this?" Clare, the second of seven children, was brought up in Birmingham, in a naturally political household. Her father, Frank, was a teacher and Irish republican who believed that Ireland should never have been partitioned. She grew up with this sense that "the British Empire was not a good thing."

She might have been a spectacularly bossy child: "I was 10 when Suez happened, and my dad felt strongly about it, so when the girls at school went about saying: 'We'll throw Nasser in the Suez Canal', I went about telling them they were quite wrong, and the Egyptians were entitled to have their canal."

And she remains spectacularly bossy, it would seem. Although brought up a devout Catholic, she fell out with the religious side of it because she couldn't accept its teachings on contraception. Still, she remains; she says, an ethnic Catholic, in that she feels very Catholic. I say I'm an ethnic Jew in much the same way. She asks if I am bringing up my young son to feel Jewish. I say his father is not Jewish. The chosen, so it's a bit tricky. The rest of the conversation goes something like this:

"Have you ever taken him to synagogue?"  
"Um...no."  
"But you must. If I was your son, I would want you to take me."

"Well I..."  
"It is part of him. We have synagogues in my constituency. I went to one the other week. The texts! Shouldn't you be giving your son a bit of that? Bring him to Birmingham. I'll take him." *Continued on page 8*

### India for Free?

(you'll pay for it!)

So you think you like a challenge?

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JAN 10 1999

**Task of the NEC**

Sir: If, as now seems likely, Grassroots Alliance candidates are elected to the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party this week in Blackpool, what can we expect?

All political parties need a ferment of debate and discussion. Labour, as a democratic party with disparate affiliates, should involve as many as possible in the formulation and dissemination of its policies. No one wants a party of uniformity and blind obedience. But there is a difference between constructive debate and destructive dissent.

In Labour's periods of office in the 1960s and 1970s, the NEC became the fiercest critic of the Government, voting for motions condemning the Government's actions and producing policy documents in direct challenge to the Cabinet, leading to Wilson and Callaghan simply ignoring the party, the NEC and the conference.

What will those elected on to the NEC see as their task? I hope they use the great privilege to represent the views of party members – not sectarian journals and ultra-left grouplets. I hope they will not use their vantage point to attack the party, and undermine the efforts of members campaigning in the local and European elections.

I hope that the legitimate views of those in the minority can add to the debate, not be splashed across the pages of the press as evidence of Labour splits.

PAUL RICHARDS

London W6

Sir: Tony Blair suggests that in the course of the campaign for Labour's NEC I failed to inform party members of my relationship to the magazine *Labour Left Briefing* (interview, 26 September). In fact, my membership of the *Briefing* editorial board is specifically mentioned in the official candidate's statement circulated to all party members with the ballot papers. It has also been mentioned in all the leaflets and press releases I have issued.

Far from hiding my radical socialist convictions, I have campaigned openly on them, and if I am elected to the NEC it will be because they are shared by large numbers of party members.

LIZ DAVIES

London N1

**Circumcision ethics**

Sir: The claim that male infant circumcision is unethical should be greeted with scepticism (Letters, 25 September).

The General Medical Council issued the following guidance to doctors in 1997: "Listen to those with parental responsibility and give careful consideration to their views. You are not obliged to act on a request to circumcise a child, but you should explain if you are opposed to circumcision other than for therapeutic reasons. You should also tell those with parental responsibility that they have a right to see another doctor."

Thus doctors are entitled to refuse to perform a circumcision that is requested for non-therapeutic reasons, but are certainly not under an ethical duty to refuse.

The grounds for circumcision go beyond immediate clinical need, and I would add a further reason to the three stated in Angela West's letter (23 September), namely the far greater ease of condom use. The condom is the only reversible form of male contraception and the main defence against sexually transmitted disease.

That does not necessarily imply, however, that circumcision should be available on the NHS. I paid £1,100 for my own operation four years ago, and the improved hygiene, comfort and convenience are worth it. Whether parents think it appropriate to do as much for their infant sons is a matter for them.

CHARLES TURPIN

Luxembourg

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity



The first in a series of photographs of Cambridge before the students return: an early morning view of Clare Bridge. Cambridge's other noteworthy bridges include the Bridge of Sighs at St John's College and the Mathematical Bridge at Queens' College

Brian Harris

Sir: Angela West says she "cannot think of one good reason for keeping" the foreskin (letter, 23 September).

Apologies for having to state the obvious, but all parts of our bodies are there for a reason – even those we don't find "aesthetically pleasing". The foreskin is there primarily to protect the most sensitive area of the penis. It acts as a "friction bearing" during intercourse (to the benefit of both participants!) and protects against desensitisation of the penis – an unfortunate side effect of circumcision.

FRASER DRIVER  
Addlestone,  
Surrey

Sir: I wonder if Angela West would feel the same about male circumcision if she had grown up in the knowledge that part of her genitals had been surgically removed to suit someone else's aesthetic values? Of course there would be no chance of such a thing because surgical tampering with a girl's genitals is rightly and fiercely condemned in this country.

ROB WARBURTON

Bedford

**Rotten voting**

Sir: I am less than impressed by what Donald MacIntyre has managed to garner about the views of the Liberal Democrats on voting reform (Comment, 25 September). I too was at Brighton, but I failed to pick up the views he claims to have heard.

We are unanimous in the view that first-past-the-post (FPTP) is a rotten system. This is not only because it hurts us (we have learnt how to turn it to our advantage and it is owing the Tories too), but because it forces people to vote against what they do not want, rather than in favour of what they do want; and because it forces the

parties to pander to the swing vote in marginal seats.

We are all in favour of the single transferable vote (STV) because every vote counts; because the parties cannot control which of their candidates the electorate selects; because it gives a roughly proportional result; and because every voter has a choice of MPs to whom he can take any problem.

Most of us accept that, because of Labour Party prejudices, the Jenkins Commission will probably recommend an inferior system, the alternative vote. This is not a proportional system, but can be adapted to be roughly proportional by "topping" it up with proportionally elected (non-constituency) MPs from a party list (AV-plus). This has numerous drawbacks, not least that not all MPs have a constituency to represent. Worse, the proportional seats are in the gift

of the parties. In short, it is also a rotten system, but less rotten than FPTP.

The argument among Liberal Democrats is whether to support the expected AV-plus system against FPTP. We know that there is a strong movement against FPTP in the country as a whole.

But if the electorate got AV-plus foisted on them, is there not a risk that they will turn against PR altogether? And will we be blamed for supporting it? Would it not be better tactics to oppose any alternative short of STV?

Some of us think that our leader's presence on a Cabinet committee makes it still more likely that we will suffer from being seen to support a rotten system.

BILL SMITH  
Nottingham

Sir: I share Max Beran's concern at the lack of choice we will have in next year's European elections

(Letter, 24 September). He is wrong, however, to attribute the problem to proportional representation.

Achieving a reasonable degree of proportionality by party is important, but it is not the only characteristic we want of our voting systems.

Our aim in reforming the electoral system should be to ensure that those elected better reflect the views of the electorate, and that can only be done by allowing voters to express their preferences for candidates and not just for parties.

The principles of proportionality and voter choice need not conflict. If the Government had chosen the single transferable vote, or even an open list system, for the European elections then both objectives could have been achieved. It is the Government, and not PR, which we must blame

for a closed list system which, while offering the advantages of proportionality, denies voters choice.

Fortunately Lord Jenkins' commission has been asked to recommend a system which extends voter choice as well as being broadly proportional, and we are therefore optimistic that the commission will propose something better for Westminster elections.

KEN RITCHIE  
Chief Executive  
Electoral Reform Society  
London SE1

**Right-wing' Alpha**

Sir: The Rev David Broad (letter, 24 September) describes the Alpha course as embracing a "dangerous, right-wing success theology", not representative of Anglican teaching. I do not know where David gets his information about Alpha, but it certainly doesn't come from the current edition of the course manual, unless I have badly misread it.

Nor is Alpha designed as a recruitment drive for the Anglican Church. Alpha is an opportunity to learn more about Christianity. Of course Alpha will result in some people joining the Anglican communion: others will seek out other Christian denominations, yet more will decide that the church isn't what they are looking for.

What matters is that all participants will have learnt something in the process – including those who are there as leaders and helpers, as I know from experience.

I am not sure what he means by "right-wing success theology" – perhaps he isn't either: but he must be challenged to explain these remarks, and either justify or withdraw them.

PAUL DUELL  
North Yorkshire  
Southampton, Hampshire

**Children betrayed**

Sir: It has taken far too long but, at last, a government has admitted that we, as a society, have failed, or worse still "harmed" many of our most vulnerable and needy children ("Social services 'harming' children", 22 September). Is not time also to stop cruelly damaging them further when they offend because of this harm, by dumping them like so much waste into the prison system?

Around 40 per cent of young people in prison have been through the "care" system, the other 60 per cent have probably been neglected and abused elsewhere. We should be doing all in our power to help these unfortunate youngsters, not punishing them for being failed by us.

RUTH COOKLIN  
London N20

**What every man needs – the answer to unsightly stains**

TODAY I want to address my male readers. That's right, the men among you. This column has always prided itself on being equal opportunity, but today, just for once, it is going to be male-oriented. Not for women. For women, I have this message. Buzz off. Pay no attention. Come back tomorrow, ladies. Sorry, but you're not wanted here.

Well, that should have secured the men's attention – and the women's too, if I know anything about human nature – so let us proceed to a subject so delicate that it is barely mentioned in any society: stains on trousers.

We all get dirty marks on our trousers from time to time, and despite the fact that 90 per cent of them are caused innocently, they always look as if they follow from

incontinence or worse. Do you know what I mean? I think you know what I mean.

What we need is a good explanation, a good cover story for mystery stains, and I think by accident I have discovered one.

Yes, I have discovered a cast-iron excuse for any mysterious stain of almost any colour on your trousers. What makes it so good is that it is based on a true-life experience which happened to me in the Wiltshire town of Chippenham about two months ago, so clearly it is a true story, because one would never be mad enough to make up something that had happened to you in Chippenham. I mean, if you did, you would at least have the decency to set it in Marlborough or, maybe, Devizes.

I had gone on a bike ride via

Chippenham, but unfortunately as I passed through the town my bicycle chain came off. It is quite easy to get a bike chain back on, but it is hard to do it without getting your hands oily, so there I was in mid-Chippenham with very greasy hands and no way of getting it off.

Sop and water is never enough. You need something like Swarfega. So I searched Chippenham until I found a shop that sold Swarfega, and bought a pot. Unfortunately, they were out of small pots and I had to buy a large canister of the stuff. You do know what I'm talking about, don't you? The gloopy emulsion-green jelly stuff called Swarfega? God knows why it's called Swarfega and God knows how it works, but it does, and all you have to do is put some on your hands, rub mightily, and lo and be-

hold all the irremovable oil comes off, and then you wash the lot off, and all you have left on your hands

is the smell of Swarfega for days and days and days.

MILES KINGSTON

*Let us proceed to a subject so delicate it is barely mentioned in polite society*

hold all the irremovable oil comes off, and then you wash the lot off, and all you have left on your hands

actually doing was blowing Swarfega off them.

Suddenly a whoosh of green blobs, like a shower of asteroids, came hurtling out of the cabinet on a jetstream of air and landed all over my trousers and the bottom half of my shirt, and it wouldn't stop. On and on it went like Hurricane Swarfega, bombarding me with gloopy green globules.

I cannot quite remember what happened next, but instead of the expected pitter patter of water, there was a tremendous blast of air. The machine obviously thought it was drying my hands. What it was

was drying my hands. What it was

er, I had successfully transferred the grease from my hands on to my clothes, using Swarfega as the cleaning agent.

Never mind the rest of the day. Never mind how I walked around with my jersey stretched down to my knees to cover my trousers. Never mind how I occasionally forgot about my disfigurement and let go of my jersey until I saw people in Chippenham gaze as their eyes lit up on my mottled trousers. Never mind how I went home and thrust my trousers in to the washing machine to get rid of a cleaning agent. Never mind.

What matters is that I have come up with a bona fide – and in my case absolutely genuine – reason for having strangely mottled trousers. Or, I suppose, ladies, a strangely mottled skirt.



July 20 2000

# THE INDEPENDENT

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## The three tests for the Blair government

IT IS TEMPTING to suggest that the next year will define Tony Blair's government, as the Prime Minister and his party face up to challenges on the economy, Europe and the constitution. That temptation should be resisted. We thought it would become clear what kind of animal New Labour was once it assumed office; yet its inner nature remains elusive. If we have learnt one thing about Mr Blair it is that he avoids definition, not out of shyness but on principle. The refusal to be pinned down is the core of his strategy.

Mr Blair promised he would be "radical" and that, at least, he has turned out to be, although not in the way that was expected. He is radical in the sense that he has revolutionised the business of responding to and managing public opinion, turning democratic leadership into a continuous marketing and public relations exercise. The cost of this approach has been a loss of authenticity. We are used to politicians tailoring their message to what the voters want to hear, but when we suspect that "what the voters want to hear" is the starting point of Mr Blair's message, it begins to sound hollow, and the lack of authenticity begins to become a liability, even in marketing terms.

So it was good to see a flash of the real Blair in our interview with him last week. What remains attractive about him is his refreshing pragmatism and his lack of attachment to ideology.

His intention to fight the next election promising lower rates of personal taxation – especially for lower-income families – is a genuine and welcome "third way" between Tory and Labour orthodoxies. It is to his credit that he fails to conceal his contempt for some of the sentimental mush that passes for Labour's "traditional values" – and it is depressing that the party is still so immature that it thinks that electing Liz Davies to the National Executive will act as a constructive influence on government.

But then the doubts creep back in: it must be asked whether it is sustainable for the Prime Minister to run against his party so much of the time. Attacking Old Labour may have been fine as an opposition tactic to persuade the electorate that he is New, but it is unwise if he wants to create a body of support that will act as ambassadors for his government, because the danger of the mid-term is that dissent in the party could act as a focus for worries among the wider public.

The first challenge for the next year is the economy.



The problem is not so much the substance of economic policy but the style. One of the few broad-brush promises that will have lodged in the minds of even the least attentive voters is the pledge to end the cycle of boom and bust. Never mind the small print: the Prime Minister last week acknowledged that he could not abolish the business cycle – he and Gordon Brown are simply trying to "reduce its amplitude". They have created an expectation that the economy will tick along in fourth gear for ever, and the voters will punish them when the Bank of England is forced to strain the engine for a humpier ride.

ish the business cycle – he and Gordon Brown are simply trying to "reduce its amplitude". They have created an expectation that the economy will tick along in fourth gear for ever, and the voters will punish them when the Bank of England is forced to strain the engine for a humpier ride.

The second, related, challenge is that of the euro, which will be launched in three months' time. That event will have profound effects on our national psychology, not to mention the pre-eminence of London as a financial centre. It is time for Mr Blair to raise the tempo and begin to make the case for joining, rather than saying he sees no obstacle in principle if others make the case for him.

The third challenge is that of constitutional reform: as Roy Jenkins comes up with his compromise between the irresistible force of change and the immovable object of the voting system; as the House of Lords finally arrives in the 20th century; and as Scotland begins to break away from England. On electoral reform, Mr Blair is right to be cautious: he should encourage real pluralism at all levels of government. That means moving quickly to a legitimate method of selection for the Upper House: it should be half elected and half appointed by an independent body. And it means letting go in Scotland, allowing the people to decide their future. As for the way we elect MPs, the case for change is overwhelming: the case for any particular form of change has not yet been made, and needs to fit with changes to the Lords and to the government of the different parts of the United Kingdom.

There is, though, much more to pluralism than this. The receding of a Freedom of Information Act is disappointing. The gentleness with which Rupert Murdoch's monopolistic media tendencies have been treated is depressing. The excessive prescription in education policy should give us pause.

Performance on the economy, Europe and the fabric of our democracy would matter less if other parts of Mr Blair's extravagant rhetoric had not already crumbled on contact with reality. The notion that his administration would rank as one of the great reforming governments of the century on the basis of its plans for transforming the welfare state has vanished like a half-recalled dream in the morning.

However, if Mr Blair can establish himself as economically competent, internationally pro-European and politically pluralist, that would be a great achievement for his first term. Of these, the most difficult and unconvincing, on the evidence so far, is pluralism. We are not persuaded that New Labour revels in the idea of letting a thousand flowers bloom and a thousand voices speak.

## For Labour and the country, there really is no alternative

IF TONY Blair feels even slightly nervous, he is making an outstanding job of concealing it. In his interview with *The Independent* at Chequers on Friday, he could hardly have been more relaxed, focussed, confident, or New Labour. Whenever you think that Mr Blair might be about to make a concession to comfortable, conventional Labour wisdom, he does just the opposite. Ask him, for instance, whether he agrees that taxes may have to go up in order to meet the need for better public services, and he says that he is hoping further to reduce them.

In a less strategic Prime Minister, this behaviour might seem positively reckless. On the face of it, this conference, despite the changes which will rob it of much of its old timelessness, promises to be the tensest Mr Blair has faced since becoming leader.

This is not merely because no one quite knows how the new structure will work. Not only are even rank-and-file loyalists worried about jobs and the high level of interest rates; now the outcome of that deeply symbolic annual election, the elections to the constituency section of the National Executive Committee have apparently delivered four seats for left-wing critics and only two to Blairite loyalists.

Not only does this amount to a public kick at Mr Blair from his own party; (though a limited one given his supremacy over the rest of the NEC) it also casts doubt on the once widespread assumption that the more you let members have a say, the more they will be inclined to back the leadership against its critics on the left. It also casts doubt on the constant gibes about Mr Blair's alleged control-freakery; from the Scottish parliament



DONALD MACINTYRE

*When Mr Blair uses this mantra, he is being more literally correct than Mrs Thatcher was 15 years ago*

fair. Party members understand the need to attract funding, however messily. What they deeply dislike is, first, that greedy individuals can pocket large sums just because they have good connections in the government; and second, the notion that a Labour country is run by a clique of mainly unelected individuals rather than the elected MPs and Ministers they worked to see in power.

In future, loyalists should run an earlier, and more transparent, campaign from the bottom up. But the other lesson is clear: To cut – or at the very least formalise – the links between ex-Labour lobbyists and their old masters in the government; and to curb the euphoric arrogance prevalent among a few of the government's unelected advisers.

This is something several right years short of an ideological crisis. The government is about to have its mettle

tested on several fronts: ministers, particularly those ministers, love to give the impression that they have finger-tip control; in fact they are peering as fearfully as any of us into a murky future trying to discern the shape of events over which they have barely any. Will the Hulk that is the Japanese economy be reloaded? Will the US Federal Reserve Bank help to trigger a world recovery? Will the Euro fly?

All this when the strains already imposed by the Bank of England's war against inflation have already caused anxiety in boardrooms as well as unions; among the Cabinet as well in local Labour ward meetings. Tony Blair told us on Friday that it was a "myth" that the Bank did not take into account the real economy as well as the inflation forecasts.

That has not stopped Peter Mandelson, the new Trade and Industry Secretary from arranging a meeting with Eddie George, the Bank's Governor, for an exchange of views on what is happening in the wider economy. But that is not quite the point. The fact is that when Mr Blair uses the TINA mantra he is actually being more literally accurate than Margaret Thatcher was when she coined the phrase more than 15 years ago.

For a start, when Mrs Thatcher used the phrase, a sizeable and quite weighty minority in her Cabinet profoundly disagreed with her. At the recent Chequers "awayday" for the Cabinet it was Clare Short, no less, who commented that she could never remember the party or the Cabinet itself being so ideologically united.

On the central and boldest economic stroke the government has

### QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I'm not really interested in whether Paddy Ashdown survives or not. I'm talking about Labour Party policy."

John Prescott,  
asked about his opposition to electoral reform

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"No real English gentleman, in his secret soul, was ever sorry for the death of a political economist."

Walter Bagehot,  
English constitutional writer

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RUTHLESSLY the public punishes economic incompetence. It is too early to convict Mr Blair of this charge. But if he wishes to be acquitted, he must realise that, for a Prime Minister, economic literacy is as important as prodigal charm. Where inflation and taxation are concerned, it is impossible to be all things to all men.

*The Sunday Telegraph*

THE EXPERIENCE of the last five years of Tory rule – tax rises, Black Wednesday, and broken promises – showed how

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD  
Opinions on the Government's record as its conference begins

will be taxed. If this benefit is now to be taxed, where will the burden fall? Not on the very wealthy, to whom child benefit is an irrelevance anyway. Nor on the feckless who pay no tax.



should know only too well, are overwhelmingly the people who voted him into office.

*The Mail on Sunday*

AS GOVERNMENTS go, it has been a good opening 18 months. Something to be proud of. But factors outside party control pose a grave threat as linked economies crash around the world, and high interest rates put the knife into manufacturing and exporting industries. And they, as Mr Blair

message, the last half of New Labour's first term of office will be the real testing time.

*New of the World*

THE QUESTION remains: what is New Labour for? We know that Mr Blair performed a brilliant feat when he took over, and transformed his party, making it electable once more. But vacuous rhetoric about communitarianism and the Third Way only heightens suspicions that Blairism is a kinder, gentler form of Thatcherism.

*The Independent on Sunday*



# England's dodgy tapestry



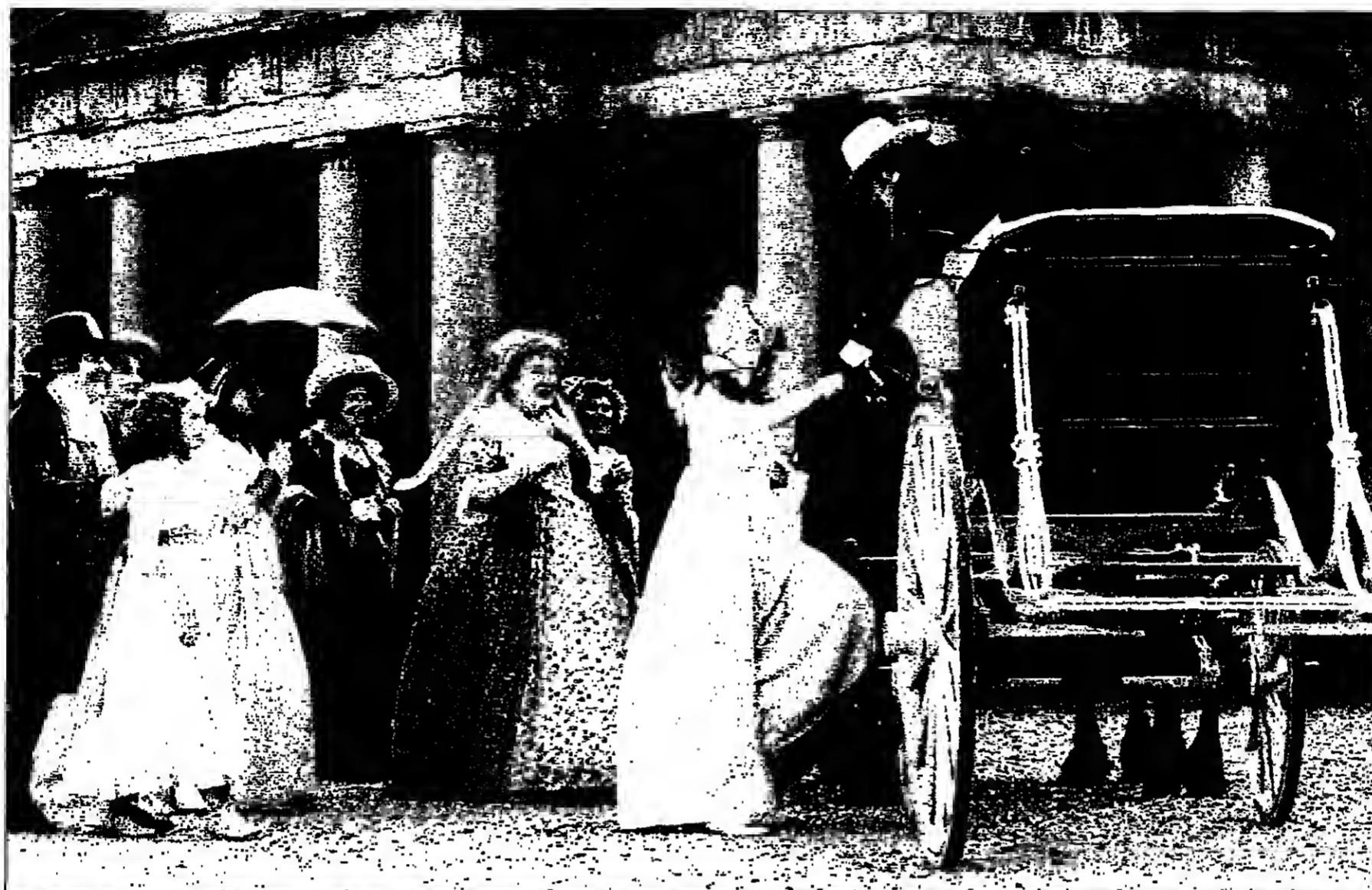
**JOHN WALSH**  
*Mr Paxman's complexion is deep pink. I fail to see how anyone could call him an Afro-Caribbean*

THE POPULATION of England is about to be hurled into yet another spasm of self-consciousness, in which hundreds of people without any particular claim to anthropological insight or psychological penetration will try to define the "essence" of "Englishness" through a list of cute details. The last time it was done was on the publication of Julian Barnes' novel, *England, England*, a few weeks ago. The time before, it was John Major's romantic little rhapsody about (my memory's) a little hazy) district nurses from Surrey cycling tipsy across village greens and cricket pitches while reeking of stale beer. The time before that, it was Bill Bryson's list of things like chocolate biscuits, the Woolsack and *Gardener's Question Time* in *Notes from a Small Island*. The time before that ... but you get the picture.

This latest occasion is Jeremy Paxman's book *The English: A Portrait of People*, extracts from which have been appearing in a Sunday newspaper. Among the flood of details which Mr Paxman presents as typical of Albion culture are the usual procession of sausages, flagellation, DIY, crumpets and October bonfires, along with a few rather dodgy foreign imports like dry-stone walls (Irish), an obsession with breasts (American), excessive drinking (German) and curry (Polish - only kidding).

But future weeks will, I guarantee, see dozens of articles, like this one, adding a few more coloured threads to the shabby tapestry of English thinginess.

Amid Paxman's trenchant ruminations on our common prejudices, there was one that stopped me in my tracks. When discussing nationalism - and the curious fact that it is more a British than an English thing - Paxman recalls getting some nasty correspondence from bigots. One bit of hate mail accused him of being part of a Jewish conspiracy to destabilise the Christian state. The other, more curiously, contented itself with enclosing a cartoon picture of a British soldier firing a gun from a trench, above the caption, "Don't move, nigger". Further ideograms seemed to suggest that Mr Paxman should be strung up on a gallows. The communication ended with the cheery



A too genteel view of Jane Austen's 'Sense & Sensibility', above? For 'Mansfield Park' a film company wanted real scenes of cruelty and rape

salutation: "Proud to be British."

Well, I've racked my brains to make sense of this but I confess it's beyond me. To call Mr Paxman an argumentative so-and-so, a bickering quiz master or a Jew is, I suppose, fair comment. To suggest that he should be hanged is clearly going a bit far. But to uphold him for being a Negro is surely right over the top. Mr Paxman's normal complexion is an attractive deep pink, sometimes shading into an irascible terracotta, occasionally darkening to a tanned and swarthy Tuscan ochre. But I fail to see how anybody could confuse him with an Afro-Caribbean.

Oddly enough, Auberon Waugh once tried a similar trick of misattribution when, as a student at Oxford, he lost a putative girlfriend to the bow-tied and exotic Grey Gownie. Incensed, Waugh proceeded to spread the rumour that his lordship was partly or wholly Jamaican, in the teeth of all empirical evidence.

It seemed an odd form of revenge at the time; now, given Paxo's experience, it looks part of a larger trend - just one more of those quintessences of Englishness: pre-

tending that someone you don't like is secretly black.

ONE OTHER particularly English quality at the moment seems to be Shopping Your Partner in the Public Press. There's a lot of it about. The spectacle isn't a pretty one but, goodness, it can come up with some wonderfully pungent little details. Like the news, from Mrs Margaret Cook, that her husband, when a small boy, was sent to collect half-a-dozen eggs in the time of post-war rationing and dropping them all, for which he was spanked. I think we're agreed that this explains a lot.

We're also indebted to Will Carling, for his selfless revelations in the *Daily Mail* this week about how he came to dump his wife, his partner, his new girlfriend and his 11-month baby son, Henry. Carling's constantly reiterated self-shamelessness is a wonder to behold. "I certainly did not know how to communicate within a relationship," he explains. "I did not take a particularly romantic or mature approach to marriage with Julia." Then: "I never made a pass at

her" he says of the Princess of Wales. "I'm actually rather shy." He could never relate to women except as potential shags. At key points in his life, when things weren't going well, he says, repeatedly, "I closed down emotionally and retreated inside myself", sounding like a three-year-old reflecting on his capacity to have a blue fit. Whatever the pop-psychology in which Mr Carling wraps himself, nothing explains his behaviour as much as the detail that, when at Sedburgh public school, he was forced to wear short trousers, even in the sixth form. Everything about him is pure arrested development. How do you go on wearing short trousers after school? A career in rugby. How do you deal with relationships that a crowding in a hit? A stiff-arm fend-off. How do you approach women? With a flying tackle. Ah, the simplicity of life in abbreviated pants ...

STRANGE NEWS reaches my ears from the world of illustrators. A prize beyond riches can be theirs if they can manage to draw with conviction Sir Harold Pinter in the act of flogging and ravishing slaves

sometime in the 1800s. That's not asking much is it?

I'm not making it up. An artist friend tells me the odd history of how she was approached by the Miramax film company, introduced to the art director of a new movie and given an exciting brief: to supply drawings for a forthcoming film of Jane Austen's *Mansfield Park*, published in 1814. No details of actors or director were given; it was jolly bush-bush. Just do these illustrations and get them down here, double quick.

Every reader of Ms Austen's more boringly moralising book will recall bow its heroine, the prim and timid Fanny Price, gets involved with the Bertrams, owners of the titular mansion, and how its owner Sir Thomas Bertram takes off to the West Indies on unspecified trading business, and later falls out with the ferocious knight for rejecting the proffered hand of Henry Crawford. In the film treatment, Fanny discovers the true nature of Sir Thomas when she stumbles on some pictures that were painted during his Caribbean sojourn, pictures that incriminate him in shocking scenes of cruelty and rape.

Jane Austen preferred merely to hint at her readers about the weirdness of Sir Thomas. At Miramax, they've grasped the window of creative opportunity with both sweaty and trembling hands. What they commissioned was a series of illustrations of a furious white settler flogging a succession of slaves at a trading post; and several others of the same imperial villain raping terrified black girls.

My friend tried some preliminary drawings, got stuck and requested some "references" as to the faces, costumes etc she should be trying to capture. In the post, rather to her surprise, came of a clutch of photographs of Sir Harold Pinter, looking cross, as the fictional knight. She duly worried away translating Pinter's face to the A4 page and finishing up with a succession of strong images of savagery, sex, gross insertion a la Clinton, whipping blood, gore etc. To her great chagrin, they were turned down, as being insufficiently vivid. "We were hoping," she was told, "for something more Goya-ish." Never mind, I told her. You did your best. It's just so difficult, isn't it, capturing the elusive Jane Austen quality.

The head of the Communication Workers Union on the future of the Post Office

IN YOUR lead editorial on the future of the Post Office, you first advocate privatisation and then suggest "that the word privatisation should not be used". To equate commercial freedom with privatisation shows complete ignorance of a debate that started in 1992. The Communication Workers' Union, the Labour Party, the Trade and Industry Select Committee and the independent consultancy London Economics, have all argued for commercial freedom in the public sector.

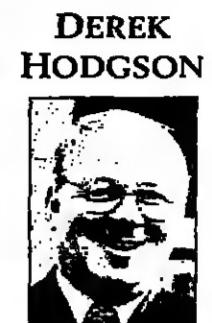
You recognise that "letter post is a natural monopoly and, to some extent, a public service". You acknowledge that the Post Office has "become a much more efficient organisation recently" and that "almost all the Conservative privatisations were flawed". Public ownership of the Post Office has been a success.

The Communication Workers Union has played a full part in the Government's Review of the Post Office. The Labour Party was elected on a pledge not to privatise the Post Office. The review has, in the Union's view, confirmed the wisdom of that pledge. There is no case for privatisation in any form.

Years of speculation on the future of the Post Office have diverted management and the union from our main task of working together to create a more efficient Post Office in an increasingly competitive environment. Privatisation would require contentious legislation and cause damaging delay to commercial freedom.

The Government should end uncertainty by making the Post Office an independent publicly owned corporation. This would include regulation and other disciplines to ensure the Post Office's continued success. The Government, as the owner of the Post Office, would enjoy a fair return to help finance current and future public spending.

## RIGHT OF REPLY



**DEREK HODGSON**

## COMMENT/5

# False note fills a tale of horror

### MONDAY BOOK

HAPPY LIKE MURDERERS  
BY GORDON BURN, FABER & FABER, £17.99

*Happy Like Murderers* is not a novel but an attempt to reveal "the strange inner dynamic of the West's relationship". There is nothing wrong with this in principle, given that the more we know about serial killers, the less likely it is that future murderers will get away with their crimes for so long.

One of the most astonishing things about the discovery in 1994 of so many sets of human remains at 25 Cromwell Street, was that girls and young women connected with the house had been disappearing for such a long time without arousing suspitions.

What became clear at Rose West's trial in 1995, after her husband committed suicide in prison, was that the lodgers and clients - she worked as a prostitute - who thronged the house were not the sort of people to take their worries to the police. The normal sexual boundaries were simply nonexistent in this strange household, where adults wandered around half-naked and children watched pornographic videos while eating their dinner. The young women on whom the Wests preyed were, for the most part, teenage girls who came from families where incest was rife.

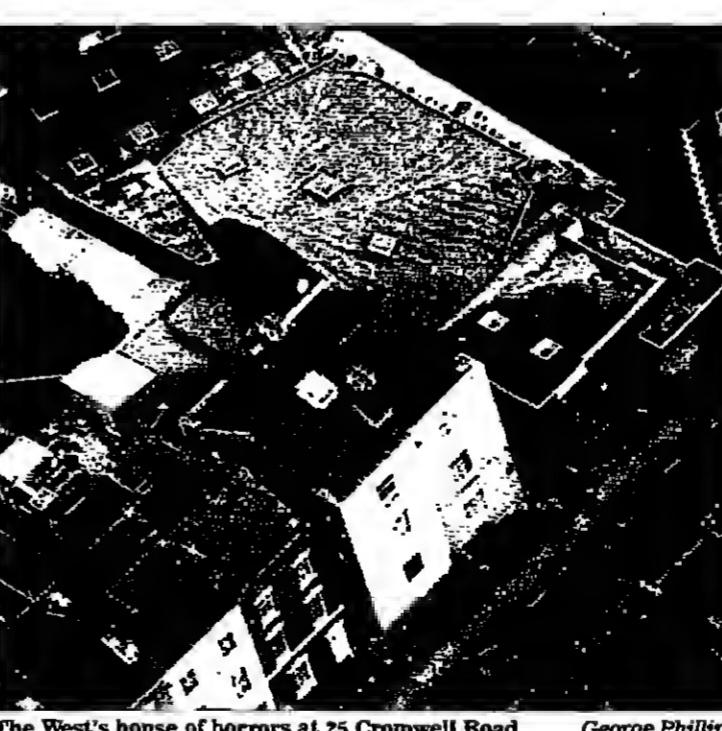
At her trial, Rose denied all the murders she had been charged with, claiming that Fred had committed them on his own. It is true that Fred West was already a murderer when he met the underage Rosemary Letts and began to court her with cheap gifts. That this much older man systematically corrupted the troubled school-

girl, moulding her to his sexual tastes, is in no doubt. Nor is her subsequent viciousness towards Fred's children from a previous marriage and her own offspring, catalogued in Burn's book in stomach-churning detail.

In 1973, Rose was found guilty with her husband of indecent assault on a young woman who had briefly worked as the couple's nanny, confirming her willingness to take part in sexual attacks. What remains in doubt, despite Rose's convictions, is her involvement in the actual killings - a question addressed in Brian Masters's exemplary volume, *She Must Have Known: The Trial of Rosemary West*. For reasons he does not go into, this question does not interest Gordon Burn, with the murders playing a relatively minor role in his text. And this is where the problems begin.

For most of the book, Burn adopts a chummy tone which approximates to speech. But whose speech? Here is Burn describing a new development in the Wests' relationship after Fred finished a short prison sentence in 1971: "(Rose) would go with some of his black meat friends, who, he had been assuring her, were massive. His black men." These bursts of sentences, often without verbs, are unsettling. Fred West is dead, and any attempt to get inside his head, as Burn tries to do, verges on imposture. The book has no footnotes, merely a two-page list of acknowledgements, which means that the reader has little idea of the accuracy of his portrait of Fred, or its precise sources.

In that sense, much of the book is



The West's house of horrors at 25 Cromwell Road George Phillips

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NLB



## Carolyn Douglas

CAROLYN DOUGLAS was the founding director of Exploring Parenthood (EP), a voluntary organisation set up to work with parents. She believed that all parents should have access to professionally based support systems. Through her work at EP, she was one of the key individuals instrumental in changing society's perception of the needs and role of parents, and the importance of parenting. The establishment of the National Parenting Institute earlier this year with funding from the Home Office was a culmination of Douglas's and EP's work.

She was born Carolyn Williamson in Abercynon in the Taff Valley in 1940, an only child. Educated at Mountain Ash Grammar School, she was the school's first pupil to leave Wales for higher education. She read Psychology and Social Administration at Nottingham University, where she met her husband, Stuart Douglas, and went on to do a post-graduate Diploma in Mental Health at the London School of Economics. She became a Psychiatric Social Worker at the Institute of Psychology, and in 1970 joined the Paddington Centre for Psychotherapy. It was here that she started to train in family therapy.

Increasing disillusion with traditional approaches led Douglas along with her colleague Ruth Schmitt-Neven, to set up a new independent organisation that was committed to working in partnership with parents.

I first met Douglas in the autumn of 1983, shortly after the birth of my first child. She had recently started Exploring Parenthood and was its Co-Director. I attended a workshop for fathers run by her and Schmitt-Neven (who later moved to Australia). I was attracted by the name "Exploring Parenthood": I wanted to think about and discuss what being a parent meant and involved beyond the initial concerns of physical care.

I had learnt how to change nappies and be the main carer. The workshop was able to articulate other concerns - how having a baby affected the relationship between the parents, how parents and especially men tried to balance work and family life; and how parents could get information and continued support in their roles. All these issues were covered. Thus started my long involvement with Carolyn Douglas and EP.

The organisation devised a way of working with parents based on respect for them and understanding their needs. A series of workshops encouraged parents to arrive at answers for themselves in a supportive environment with other parents and the help of a skilled facilitator. The workshops were held in comfortable venues with an excellent lunch. Parents were valued and felt valued. This approach arose from Douglas's ability to engage in psychodynamic thinking that was based in a practical reality.



At this time in the early Eighties EP was one of the few organisations offering support of this kind to all parents irrespective of whether they had an identified problem. Douglas and the people she attracted to work with her brought professional skills as social workers, family therapists or other disciplines. The workshops required to make a significant mind shift in order to see parents in their totality and not as people who created problems in their children or who were inadequate in their role as parents.

In these early days Exploring Parenthood was criticised for being an organisation that served the middle classes. There was some truth in this, which troubled Douglas who had a strong sense of social justice. She understood that the social realities of people's lives had a significant effect on their ability as parents and maintained

that all parents could understand and benefit from the knowledge of professionals in the childcare and mental health fields.

Her response to the criticism was to make changes so that EP could reach parents from all sectors of society. One example was the establishment of the Moyenda, a project for and run by black people, as part of EP. Other initiatives set up by Douglas included a project for parents whose children were involved in crime, a parents' advice line, projects with homeless families and support for parents at work.

In 1992, ten years after Exploring Parenthood was established, a multidisciplinary conference was held in Westminster. One of its aims was to stimulate politicians into taking the needs of parents seriously. This was successful in that an All Party Parliamentary Group on Parenting was established

with EP acting as its clerk. Douglas stopped being Director of EP in 1997 but continued to be involved in its activities. She was planning the next cycle of training courses when she died.

In many ways, Carolyn Douglas was Exploring Parenthood, its vision was her vision. She had the great skill of getting across difficult concepts in a way that parents could understand. She herself was vibrant, stylish and outspoken, an inspirational speaker in spite of her innate shyness. She was moreover almost single-handedly responsible for changing society's understanding of the role and needs of parenting.

STEVIE GOODE

*Carolyn Maynard Williamson, family therapist; born Abercynon, Glamorgan 4 April 1940; married 1964 Stuart Douglas (one son, two daughters); died 3 September 1998.*

## GAZETTE

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

#### DEATHS

**BLASTERS:** Brian John, The Right Rev, Bishop of Edington, on 22 September 1998 suddenly at his home, aged 65. Funeral Mass at St Paul's Cathedral, Friday 2 October at 11am, followed by private burial at St Paul's Cemetery, Devizes. To L.D.F. Bishop Masters' Memorial Fund. Enquiries to Leverton and Sons Ltd 0171 387 6075.

#### IN MEMORIAM

**STATHAM:** Catherine Ann 1967-1992. Loving memories of Cathy, who died suddenly on this day. "Absolute treasure".

#### LECTURES

Victoria and Albert Museum: Sally Dorner, "Book of Hours", 2pm.  
"The Wallace Collection, London W1: Robert Wrenley, "Sculpture: plaques, medals and waxes", 1pm.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR GAZETTE**  
**BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS** (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, etc.) must be submitted in writing and charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, forthcoming marriages, etc.), which must be submitted in writing and charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Always include a daytime telephone number. The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2500.

#### BIRTHDAYS

Lord Abinger, farmer and company director, 84; Sir Nigel Althaus, former Government Broker, 69; Miss Brigitte Bardot, actress, 64; Mr Joseph Benton MP, 65; Sir Colin Berry, Professor of Morbid Anatomy, London Hospital Medical College, 61; The Duke of Buccleuch, Captain, the Queen's Body Guard for Scotland, 75; Sir Robin Buchanan, former chairman, NHS Supplies Authority, 68; Lord Cockfield, a former vice-president, Commission of the European Communities, 82; Miss Joanne Drew, former director, Hayward and Regional Exhibitions, South Bank, 68; Mr Peter Egan, actor, 52; Dame Phyllis Friend, former chief nursing officer, DHSS, 76; Lieutenant-Colonel Grant, Commandant, Royal College of Defence Studies, 54; Sir David Hannay, diplomat, 63; Mr Lyndon Harrison MEP, 51; Sir Michael Harrison, High Court judge, 58; Dr Barry Heywood, director, British Antarctic Survey, 81; Sir Trevor Hughes, municipal engineer, 73; Sir Jeremy Isaacs, former general director, Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, 66; Miss Alice Mahon MP, 61; Miss Ellen Malcolm, painter, 75; Sir Peter Miller, former chairman of Lloyd's, 68; Major Edward Orr Ewing, Lord-Lieutenant of Wigton, 67; Max Schmeling, heavy-weight boxer, 93; Miss Helen Shapiro, singer, 52; Mr Jon Snow, television journalist, 51.

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio, painter, 1573;

Pierre de Maupertuis, astronomer and mathematician, 1698; William Julius Mickie, poet, 1735; John "Gentleman" Jackson, pugilist, 1783; Richard Bright, physician and discoverer of "Bright's disease", 1789; Giovanni Buonaventura Genelli, painter, 1798; Adriano Ludwig Richter, painter, 1803; Prosper Mérimée, playwright and novelist, 1803; Alexandre Cabanel, painter, 1823; Francis Turner Palgrave, poet and editor, 1824; Jean Louis Gobbaert, pianist and composer, 1835; Georges Clemenceau, statesman, 1841; Field Marshal John Denton Pinkstone French, first Earl of Ypres, 1852; Edward Herbert Thompson, explorer and archaeologist, 1856; Florent Schmitt, composer, 1870; Pietro Badoglio, statesman and soldier, 1871; Herman Cyril McNeile ("Sapper"), novelist, 1888; Peter Finch, actor, 1916.

Deaths: St Wenceslaus, Prince of Bohemia, martyred, 929; Henry VI, Holy Roman Emperor, 1197; Andrea del Sarto, painter, 1530; Thomas Gainsborough, painter, and inventor of "spirit fresco" process, 1888; Herman Melville, novelist, 1891; Louis Pasteur, chemist, 1895; Emile-Edouard Charles-Antoine Zola, novelist, 1902; Sir Alfred East, painter and etcher, 1913; Maundy Gregory, notorious "honours broker", 1941; Gregg Toland, film cameraman, 1948; Edwin Powell Hubble, astronomer, 1953; Gerard Hoffnung, humorist, artist and musician, 1955; Estelle Sylvia Pankhurst, artist and feminist, 1960; Arthur "Harp" Marx, comedian, 1964; André Breton, poet and pioneer of surrealism, 1966; John Rodger D'Al Passos, novelist, 1970; Gamal Abdel Nasser, statesman, 1970; Wystan Hugh Auden, poet, 1973; Pope John Paul I (Albino Luciani), reigned only 33 days, 1978; Sir Robert Helpmann, dancer and actor, 1986; The Hon William Douglas-Hamilton, playwright, 1992.

On this day: the Persians were defeated by the Greeks at the Battle of Marathon, 490 BC; during the Hundred Years' War, Calais surrendered to the English, 1347; Admiral Blake defeated the Dutch Admiral Van Tromp at Dover, 1652; Judge Jeffreys was appointed Lord Chancellor of England, 1685; "God Save the King", the national anthem, was sung for the first time, at the Drury Lane Theatre, London, 1745; Bismarck made his "Blood and Iron" speech, 1862; Elizabeth Garrett Anderson was admitted to the register as the first qualified woman physician and surgeon in Britain, 1865; Marks and Spencer's first shop opened in Manchester, 1884; the Turks were defeated by British forces at Kut-al-Amara, Mesopotamia, 1915; the Radio Times was first published, 1923; two US Army aircraft completed the first round the world flight, ending at Seattle, 1924; Canadian troops entered Calais, 1944; in France, a referendum on the constitution of the Fifth Republic was held, 1958.

Today is the Feast Day of St Anneund or Chamond, St Eustochium of Bethlehem, St Exuperius or Souprie of Toulouse, St Faustus of Riez, St Ferreolus of Vienne, St Lioba and St Wenceslaus of Bohemia.

#### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Duke of York opens the Brighton Society for the Blind, Sussex Vision Centre, Hollingdean, East Sussex; visits St Dunstan's Rehabilitation and Training Centre, Ovingdean, Brighton; and attends the Dining Out of the First Sea Lord at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich, London SE10.

#### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; F Company Scots Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Coldstream Guards.

#### APPOINTMENTS

Miss Caroline Elmes, to be ambassador to the Republic of Angola. Mr Peter Spiceley, to be ambassador to the Republic of Costa Rica. Mr David Hollamby, to be governor and commander-in-chief of St Helena. Professor Sir Gareth Roberts, to be President of the Institute of Physics. Mr David Levin, to be Headmaster City of London School, with effect from 1 September 1999.

Lord Justice Phillips, to be a Lord of Appeal in Ordinary. Mr Justice Tuckey, Mr Justice Clarke, Mr Justice Laws and Mr Justice Sedley, to be Lord Justices of Appeal.

#### HISTORICAL NOTES

SUSAN MUMM

## Lewes riots for a stolen daughter



IT MUST have been obvious that trouble was brewing as the Rev John Scobell read the burial service over the body of his daughter Amy in the autumn of 1857. But the unrest apparent in All Saints' Church, Lewes, gave only the faintest of clues to the violence that would erupt minutes later in the churchyard. The "Lewes Riot" sparked by the burial continued sporadically for several days, and so excited the local media that the Sussex Advertiser published an "Extraordinary Edition" to chronicle the disturbances.

The dead woman, Amy Scobell, had grown up in an ordinary early Victorian family. A stern, authoritarian father; a loving but shadowy mother; and a handful of siblings. But something set Amy apart in her mid-twenties. Disastrously, by the standards of the time, she failed to marry. Perhaps she chose not to - we don't know. Instead, shockingly, she became a nun. In 1856 Amy joined the Society of St Margaret, an Anglican sisterhood based in Sussex. The community was a nursing order, and Amy enjoyed the life. She worked as a nurse until she caught scarlet fever from one of her patients and died, less than two years after entering.

A sad little story of an ordinary life cut short, or so it seems. But the extreme nature of the family and public reaction to Amy's life and death needs explaining. It can only be understood if we put it into the context of the times. Women who failed to marry were expected to devote themselves to their parents until their deaths, and then to transfer their unpaid domestic services to the household of a sibling. The omnivorous Victorian family was capable of consuming all.

Scobell, like many another Victorian paternosters, believed that single women must not rebel against parental authority, whatever their own ambitions. He claimed that the sisterhood lured away his daughter, whom he described as "a mere child". This "child" was in her late twenties or early thirties when she left the paternal roof - unmarried women, in a very real sense, never came of age.

These early Anglican sisters were called "stolen daughters", and this phrase encapsulated the attitude of the general public toward the communities. "Stolen" summarised the belief that community life

for women was so unnatural that well-brought-up women would not enter willingly. "Daughter", too, is significant. An unmarried woman in middle life was still seen first and foremost as a daughter, with a daughter's duties and a daughter's powerlessness. Scobell, like many others, demonstrated a profound incomprehension of his daughter's desire to live in a community of women. The fact that Amy Scobell felt a sense of vocation which did not include father or husband as its central focus was incomprehensible to him.

We have established why Amy's decision to join a sisterhood destroyed her relationship with her family. In order to understand the riot in the churchyard, we must examine the series of symbolic affronts to the family that took place during the funeral itself. The sisters, not her relatives, accompanied her body to the grave. There was a dispute in the street over who should take the place of chief mourner, the sisters or Mr Scobell. At the church the nuns grouped themselves around the coffin in the place usually taken by family members. The riot broke out in the churchyard after the interment, where the sisters were attacked by the mob and had to scramble over a wall in order to save themselves. Farcically, they took refuge in a pub where they were hidden until nightfall, when they left town in disguise.

*Susan Mumm is author of "Stolen Daughters, Virgin Mothers: Anglican sisterhoods in Victorian Britain" (Leicester University Press, £4.50)*

## Womb magic from an artist who teases



THE INDEPENDENT ARCHIVE

28 SEPTEMBER 1988

**Diana Hinds meets Eileen Agar, one of the last surviving painters of the English Surrealist circle**

to her, and she continued to exhibit with them for many years. But she maintained, nevertheless, an independent view on matters of Surrealist orthodoxy - "automatism", for example - the technique of automatic painting or writing, dictated from the unconscious - she simply did not believe in.

The Surrealists, thank goodness, believed in a sense of humour - jokes, everything that was lively, a bit different. She recalls, with a croaky laugh, one occasion when Surrealists gathered at a pre-war haunt, the Barcelona Restaurant in Bea Street: "George Melly was asked to do something strange: he waited until we were all silent, picked up a whole lot of knives and forks and threw them in the air. They all came clattering down, and the people downstairs thought 'My God, what's happened?' until we explained it was just a Surrealist joke."

She recalls, with a croaky laugh, one occasion when Surrealists gathered at a pre-war haunt, the Barcelona Restaurant in Bea Street: "George Melly was asked to do something strange: he waited until we were all silent, picked up a whole lot of knives and forks and threw them in the air. They all came clattering down, and the people downstairs thought 'My God, what's happened?' until we explained it was just a Surrealist joke."

After her rather dour art training at the Slade, it was she says, the imaginative freedom of the Surrealists that appealed

At the heart of it, however,

lies a commitment to nature, and to what the Surrealists called the "found object", something which she shared particularly with the painter Paul Nash. She first met Nash in 1935, while on holiday with her husband Joseph Bard (a Hungarian writer and collector of gems; he died in 1975) in Swanson. "Paul used to bring me curious stones that he had picked up on the beach," she writes in her autobiography, *A Look At My Life*, "and as he said, be felt rather like a penguin, laying them metaphorically at my feet."

Her paintings explore the diversity of the animate and inanimate worlds, piecing them together in shards of vivid colour (her love of colour, she says, derives from her early childhood in Argentina). One of her most outstanding works, *The Autobiography of an Embryo* (1933), now hanging in the Tate, is a large, brilliant mosaic of disparate images, out of which grew her notion of "womb magic" - that the foetus in the womb relives each stage of evolution, from a tiny aquatic creature to a human, and represents a miraculous, imaginative force.

Eileen Agar admits that she was one of the very few women among the Surrealists to be taken seriously as a painter. André Breton's wife, for instance, was a talented artist, but Breton didn't even know about it until other people told him. "They always thought of women as Muses," she comments dryly: "I was more interested in being a painter than being good-looking."

*From the Living page of The Independent, Wednesday 28 September 1988*

#### WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE

beguine, n.

dance with the signal "beguine". Its seductive pace echoes the French word "beguine" - for a fancy or infatuation.

More difficult than se-

duction itself, the song took a while to gain wide recognition, with Artie Shaw's version. But are there religious echoes? It was a medieval order named after Lambert le Begue, so called because he stammered. This order was chaste, the Dutch less so: nuns could leave and marry - end the beguine, one might say.



# 'We must redefine Jewishness'

The number of Jews in Britain is declining, and those committed to the religion's traditions are falling. Is it time, then, for an unorthodox approach? By Darius Sanai

**R**achel was sitting at a table next to the big tree at the Spaniards' Inn, in Hampstead, drinking vodka and bitter lemon with her friends. There were seven of them in all, in their late teens, a year last year at school or just about to start college, jabbering excitedly about *Home and Away*.

All nine London girls, they were dressed in black tank tops and tight skirts and gold jewellery.

Rachel's group is the British equivalent of Manhattan's Jewish American princesses - well-off, well-educated family girls with high expectations.

Traditionally, north London boys of whatever persuasion quickly learned one thing about girls like Rachel: never ask for a date on a Friday night. In the leafy suburbs which are their homes, Friday, the evening of the Jewish Sabbath, is spent with the family. Even the wildest party girls could tell you that.

But last week in the Spaniards, everything seemed to have changed. Rachel had been out the previous Friday with Ben, a boy she met in a pub the Saturday before that and, she said, she was going to see him the next Friday. Amy, her best friend, was going cubbing in Brixton. Crewman Jon, Amy's ex, was taking Nicola, with her hand in his, to see *Scoring Private Ryan*.

None of them was going to spend Friday dinner at home.

Their parents, they said, were either unconcerned or resigned. "I don't really feel any of that Jewishness," Rachel said. "I mean, synagogues aren't really me. It's great if my parents want to stay in and I'm quite close to my mum and dad. But I'll see them when I want to, not when I'm supposed to."

Britain's Jews are dwindling tribe. A population of 450,000 in 1950 shrank to 308,000 in 1985 and just 285,000 in 1995, the last year for which figures are available. According to one estimate by the Board of Deputies of British Jews, there will be fewer than 230,000 Jewish people here in 20 years' time. The main reason behind the decline, and a source of heated debate and worry within both the Orthodox and Reform communities, is assimilation. Those who are born Jews are drifting away from the faith and the community, marrying non-Jews or simply not identifying themselves as Jewish in the secular, individualistic society of late Nineties Britain.

Jonathan Romain, the rabbi of the Reform Synagogue in Maidenhead, Berkshire, is pushing forward with his idea of a solution, one that is raising the ire of traditionalists in what is becoming an increasingly pervasive and heated debate about the way forward. Rabbi Romain, a Jewish historian, says: "We have to redefine what being Jewish means. There are many different ways of being Jewish, as well as the faith. Lots of Jews are atheists or agnostics and will stay so and it's something the synagogues need to recognise, or risk losing two-thirds of British Jewry."

He is one of a growing number of vocal reformers within the rabbinical system (another is Rabbi Schmuel Boteach, author of *Kosher Sex*, a controversial guide aimed at getting Jews to enjoy reproducing more) who argue the ancient religion has to wake up to the new millennium or risk losing its "people" forever, particularly in countries like Britain which has a comparatively small Jewish community.

The views are anathema to traditionalists and those within the orthodoxy (with a small "o"), who argue that to change the rules on being part of the faith will irretrievably dilute what has never been a proselytising religion.

If Jewish men are marrying out of the faith (as 48 per cent of British ones are), they say, their children and wives will not, without a long conversion process, even be Jews, and that is the end of it.

Among ordinary Jews, though, the reformists are finding growing support. Last Friday night some 60 people attended Rabbi Romain's sabbath service in Maidenhead. Classes and social activities on weeknights, ironically, attract a higher attendance. The synagogue is a converted large detached house on a suburban road, next to a bed and breakfast.

Isaac Greenberg was among those participating in the kiddush, the blessing with wine, after the service. Mr Greenberg, who is Israeli by origin, is typical of Rabbi Romain's flock. "I wasn't religious at all when I was a teenager," he says. "I went very, very rarely to synagogue. We were what you'd call 'barmitzvah and wedding Jews' in Israel. My family was too busy living their lives."

Mr Greenberg, now 52, moved to Britain in 1967 after he met and married a British woman from Liverpool. His wife was Church of England, but as lapsed as he was. They had a register-office wedding.

It was a few years later when Mr Greenberg and his wife Joyce had two daughters, that they moved to Cheshire and he started visiting local synagogues "out of curiosity". He found the experience comforting, particularly after his father's death. But one day, in an orthodox synagogue in Sheffield, where he worked on occasion, he had an arresting experience. "I visited the synagogue quite frequently, and I was going to touch the Torah during a service. But then someone whispered in the ear of the rabbi, and I was stopped and they told me, 'You're not married within the faith, you can't go to the Torah'." Within seconds I was reduced to *person non grata* in the synagogue, and didn't feel like going there again."

Mr Greenberg's story is not atypical among the diverse flock at Maidenhead; Jason and Sarah

Miller, a professional couple in their late thirties living in west London, told of being "frozen out" by the regulars at their local synagogue. "After years without ever feeling Jewish, we wanted to participate in the community, just to see what it was like," said Mrs Miller. "But it was like this: 'It was like the rules,' he asked that it was not revealed as those working there may get into trouble. It wasn't until he was starting coming to Maidenhead (after a move south) that he and his family felt welcomed. His elder daughter, Tamar,

comes to services every Friday. She, too, has married out of the faith; she, too, was "frowned upon" (her expression) by other synagogues. "I would like my children to be brought up like I was," she says, "with both Christmas and Rosh Hashanah, so they could make up their own minds." It is an arrangement her rabbi is happy with.

Last Friday, Len Driver dropped in to say hello to the rabbi. Mr Driver's name has been changed at his request) is one of Rabbi Romain's converts: "If it wasn't for my experiences here, I wouldn't be with everybody was friendly. I loved sitting with old couples and talking about their experiences, and it really brought something out in me."

Mr Driver, now 32, became very devout in his twenties, and when he moved to Yorkshire with his (Jewish) wife, became a stalwart of his local synagogue, which is Orthodox.

"I love being part of a community. I am a believer but I know a lot of people

who come who don't believe, who love talking and meeting up and the whole spirit."

But now, he thinks Rabbi Romain goes too far. "I'm not happy with welcoming non-Jews into the faith. They have to be 100 per cent committed, because otherwise the whole faith will become diluted, with people who are not born Jewish who also don't share the values. That's dangerous."

On Friday, Mr Driver sat in on one of Rabbi Romain's conversion classes for inter-married couples, which are conducted in a jolly, even irreverent, tone. He would mutter his disagreement when his old mentor outlined a liberal interpretation of a ceremony or ritual. "I don't like that," he said once. The tension in the little room in Maidenhead echoed the arguments within the whole of Britain's declining tribe.



John Lawrence

Isaac Greenberg with his wife Joyce (left), daughter Tamar and son-in-law Martin at home in High Wycombe

## INFORMATION UNLIMITED

ALL THE FACTS YOU NEED TO AVOID HEARTACHE

NO. 7 GETTING PREGNANT



ON AVERAGE, women in the UK take about seven months to become pregnant for the first time. Understanding your own fertility cycle may help to increase your chances of conception. Fertility cycles vary in length but you can broadly work out when you are fertile by monitoring your cycle dates and observing the other signs such as thinner, wetter vaginal secretions.

**Pre-conception health**

- Have a blood test to check whether you are immune to rubella (German measles)
- Take folic acid tablets: 400mcg daily. These should be taken from when you start trying for a baby until the twelfth week of pregnancy to reduce the risk of neural tube defects such as spina bifida.
- Eat plenty of fresh fruit and vegetables
- Stop or reduce smoking as soon as you plan your pregnancy. 30% of all women smoke.
- Limit your alcohol intake to no more than one or two units of alcohol once or twice a week.
- Avoid recreational drugs and if you are taking any prescribed drugs tell your GP.
- Take time to relax, avoid stress and fatigue. Look after yourself.
- Continue exercising but don't overdo it.

**Conception tips**

- Keep an accurate recording of your menstrual cycle to work out your fertile time.
- The length of your cycle is counted from the first day of your period, up to, but not including the first day of your next period.
- Ovulation normally occurs around 14 days before the next period. Women over 30 ovulate less regularly.
- The cervix or neck of the womb produces fertile secretions as ovulation is approaching.
- The wetter, the more fertile

Before you can be considered properly pregnant, the egg has to move down the fallopian tube and reach the womb cavity. There, it burrows into the lining and begins to make a placenta which releases a hormone into your body which is the basis for detecting pregnancy.

**Stress**

Trying for a baby can turn what is supposed to be a wonderful experience into a nightmare. The stress of waiting, and the demand to have sex at the "right" time can put undue pressure on a couple's relationship. This stress can hinder your chances of conceiving.

**Bingo: First signs of pregnancy**

- Missed periods.
- Tender larger breasts.
- Increased vaginal discharge without soreness or irritation.
- Feeling tired or sick at any time of the day.

Pregnancy tests can be carried out on a urine sample from the first day of a missed period.

**Problems with pregnancy**

- After one year of trying unsuccessfully, a GP will classify a couple as sub-fertile and refer them to a specialist.
- Forty per cent of the population experience some difficulty when trying for a baby.
- One in every six couples has a problem with infertility; 40 per cent of these problems are related to male difficulty, 60 per cent to female.
- Boots and Tomm's campaign have a Web site offering advice on pre-conception care for men <<http://www.boots.co.uk>> or call 0171-620 0168. Fertility UK offers information & referral to a local fertility awareness teacher, 0171-371 1341. Web site <<http://www.fertilityuk.org>> has a section on fertility indicators

**What actually happens**

- A fertile woman releases one ripe egg approximately 14 days before the next period.
- The egg lives for only 12-24 hours after it is released from the ovary and fertilisation must take place within that time.
- When a man ejaculates he releases more than 300 million sperm in about 5ml of fluid.
- Sperm can live inside a woman's body for two to five days waiting for the egg to be released.
- It can take only 20 minutes for the fastest sperm to reach the waiting egg.
- The sperm penetrates the outer membrane of the egg, then the sperm and egg fuse and fertilisation takes place.

## IN THE STICKS

STEVIE MORGAN

# How to move an entire garden in a day

MY MATE Frances makes her living running aerobics classes that make training for an Olympic gold seem like a soft option. So Frances knows about bodies and she says that the section of the population with the toughest arms are mothers of children under two, because lifting steadily growing children is the perfect incremental training.

Clearly a case of life influencing art. In the hope that it works the other way round too, I go to the gym believing that battling a floppy botty makes useful physical labour easier. I needed it to be true this weekend because we had to move an entire vegetable garden in a day.

It was all the fault of the new greenhouse - the one the size of a central American republic. When Doug measured the plot for it he found that it would neatly cover half of our newly constructed formal veg plot. We checked the measurements three times before facing the terrible reality of dismantling the careful geometry of triangular raised beds and paved paths.

Allens may be able to do large scale fractals on a corn field in a couple of hours but then they don't have to move a tonne of top soil and 100 concrete pavers to do it.

"Don't worry," I said, "it won't be too bad. I'll help. I do go to the gym after all." And in my well-meaning naivety I really believed that two aerobics sessions made me as able to dig and barrow and lift as Doug - who is twice my size and has been doing all that sort of thing for 15 years. But I was determined to show that sitting on my backside in front of a computer all my work-

ing life didn't mean I was a wimp. "I'll just get this path moved," I said. Nonchalantly I fitted my fingers under the edge of the first flagstone and pulled. At first I thought it was stuck down, then reality dawned. It was very heavy and I had let myself in for lifting at least 50 just like it. After the first 10 I'd worked out a way of shuffling the stones on their ends over the grass, in the hope that Zombie Teletubbies might move. I'd also managed to stop myself gasping as if in the last throes of sexual ecstasy.

After the paving stones, we moved the beds, shovelling and barrowing endless amounts of soil. I got so hot I stopped caring about Doug seeing my crinkly midriff in the full and unfaltering light of day and stripped to my bikini top.

"You were quite right," beamed Doug. "It's not so bad. We'll have this done in no time. Here take this spade." I smiled and thought, "I'm just going to lie down and die, right now." But pride is a terrible thing. I didn't suggest a lunchbreak or burst into tears when I looked at Doug's watch and saw it was only 10 past 11. When he said we should stop to eat, I even said, "Oh, I'll just finish this first."

I think after lunch my natural endorphins cut in, you know the way they do when people have their limbs lopped off in battle and then walk 20km to the field hospital with their arm in a Tesco's carrier.

But the proof of the fitness pud-

ding is in the morning-after stiffness. My whole body throbbed and my bottom was so painful I had to take Nurofen to walk downstairs. Doug however was fine. "Yeah, gardening's the best burn workout there is," he said. "Gardeners, huh - bums of steel."

bath and with two glasses of champagne inside me I was feeling a lot better. I even began to feel quite cocky when Doug fell asleep just as I was perking up. I had triumphed, proved myself fit for active service, demonstrated that working out wasn't just about vanity.

# NETWORK

## Where have all the innovations gone?

This year's Live 98 boasted plenty of rehashed technology but little that was genuinely ground-breaking. By Matthew Burgess

**TICKETS FOR** the Live 98 consumer technology show were being touted outside Earls Court last week just as they would be for an Oasis concert. Once inside the exhibition, though, another parallel was revealed: what was billed as the future was in reality nothing much more than a revamp of the recent past.

Live 98 seemed curiously subdued. There were few genuine innovations on display. The majority of products being smaller, cheaper, more efficient updates of their predecessors. Indeed, much of the show resembled an upmarket Tottenham Court Road electronics shop (without the surly staff) - high on the black box/flashing light quotient but lacking in any genuine "Wow" factor.

The most significant new technology at Live 98 was Digital TV, billed as "the biggest development since colour".

Rather than being another alternative to satellite and cable, digital TV is simply a new way of processing and trans-

mitting the broadcast signals. In order to receive these signals, however, you will need a decoder (set-top box), which will cost around £200, though digitally enabled sets are available for those who fancy splashing out on them.

For the TV and hi-fi buffs, 1998 will be remembered as the year of the flat.

The 1950s sci-fi dream has finally come true - televisions and loudspeakers can now be hung on the wall. Flat-screen TVs have been around as millionaire's playthings for a while now but are becoming slightly more accessible. They still weigh in at the top end of the price spectrum however.

Digital Versatile Disc (DVD) is not yet the CD/VHS killer of popular hype. Yes, you can store lots of information on a DVD. Yes, DVD films come with extra information on the disc (different languages, widescreen etc). However, until recordable DVD makes its way past Hollywood's anti-piracy lobby, it is little more than a re-

placement for Laser Disc. Top marks in the Home Entertainment Overall stakes for Pioneer - their DVL-900 combines DVD with Laser Disc and Video CD in one (big) box.

One of the strangest hi-fi phenomena of the last year has been the resurgence of Mini Disc. Usually if a format is initially unsuccessful, it dies a death (Digital Compact Cassette), or finds a niche market (DAT). Mini Disc, however, has re-emerged on the back of a clever marketing campaign highlighting its status as a "Cool Thing". MD machines were everywhere, from Sharp's cute portables to Sony's in-car six-disc monster.

Elsewhere, the buzzword was integration. TVs were PCs, mobile phones were PDAs, computers were home cinema systems. The Alpine stand played host to the ultimate multi-purpose device - a Range Rover transformed into a mobile entertainment centre - complete with Surround Sound, in-car navigation and screen-

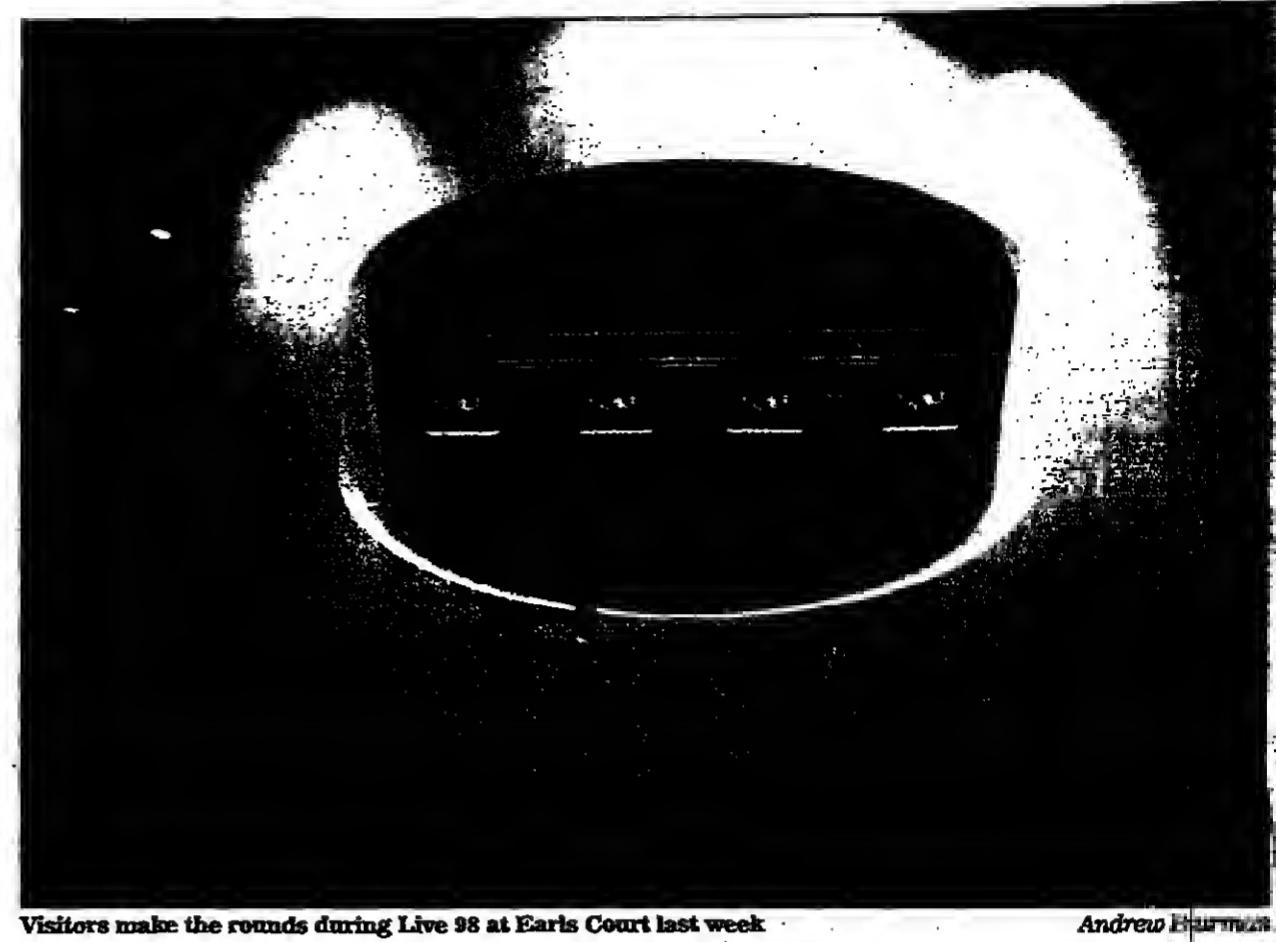
back TVs - great for subtiring unruly kids on long journeys.

The Jeremy Clarkson Award for Just-Inspiring Immaculate object of the show goes to Sony for their super-sleek Vario PCG-505G, an anerically slender notebook PC that packs a 233MHz Pentium MMX processor, 32MB RAM and 3D graphics into a sub-A5 package less than an inch thick.

Design kudos also to the gorgeous WM-EX7 Walkman, also from Sony (can these things get any smaller?), and Philips' sleek Nino 3000 handheld PC, but good looks were an exception, not the rule. Bland boxes abounded - it was almost impossible to tell the homogeneous VCRs, hi-fi components and TV decoders apart.

Despite its billing as a new technology showcase, companies at Live 98 were not going to display their real future technology lest it put punters off buying this year's models.

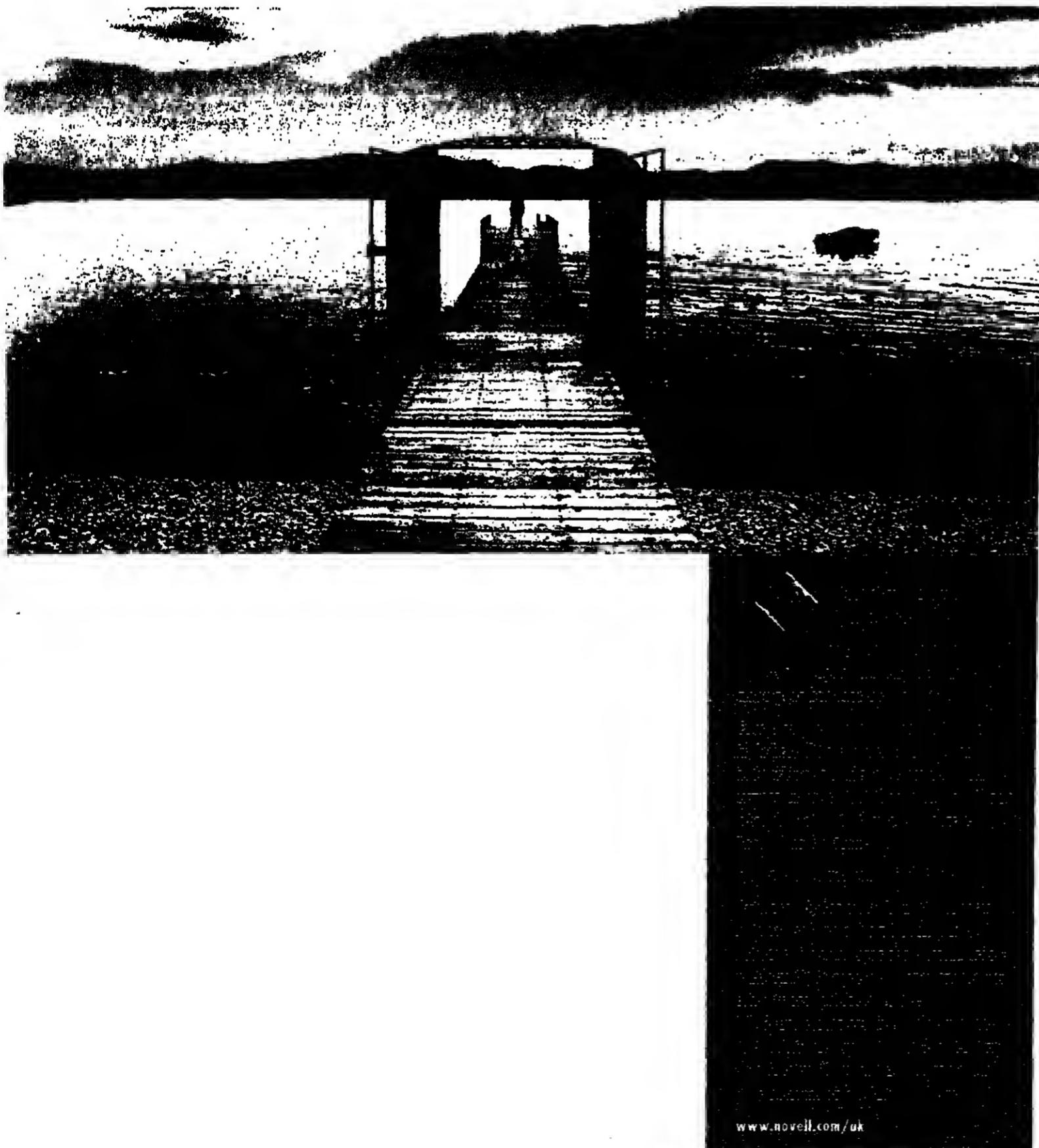
It seems that Live 98's vision of the future is limited to the approach to Christmas.



Visitors make the rounds during Live 98 at Earls Court last week

Andrew Burnham

### A closed network is a contradiction in terms



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Novell.



## Free-for-all breaks out on the Net

Dixons' launch of a free Internet service will force other UK ISPs to brush up their acts. By Paul Lavin

The Internet is becoming a free-for-all in the UK. While there may be as many definitions of 'free' in the lexicon of Net marketers as there are for sex in the mind of Bill Clinton, Dixons Group appears to have one that is close to the dictionary's. Its new Freeserve Internet service, launched last week, seems to be free of all charges except the price of a local telephone call, but there are inevitable exceptions.

"We are providing a full, usable Internet connection and service for individuals and small businesses and increasing the value of the Internet to those users with content," said Mark Danby, general manager of Freeserve Limited, part of Dixons Group. "All our subscribers have to pay for is the price of a 0845 telephone call - the Internet service is free. The average monthly cost of an Internet account is somewhere near £12 plus the call. Freeserve represents a significant savings opportunity for British Internet users."

Historically, Internet Service Providers (ISPs) charged a set-up fee which could be as much as £50, and a monthly flat usage fee ranging from about £20 to nearly £20.

Online service providers such as AOL and CompuServe

will force ISPs to look for new ways to add value for their customers instead of just providing the equivalent of an Internet dial tone. Freeserve will help the Net grow faster and that's good for everybody."

As a result of Freeserve, the price of Net access in Britain will inevitably fall, according to Laurence Blackall, the chairman of the Internet Service Providers Association and CEO of the Internet Technology Group, which runs Global Internet. "Users will need to define what they want from their ISP in terms of the quality of service and support. Some users will go for a 'free' scheme and others will realise that there isn't any such thing as a free lunch," Blackall observed.

Freeserve's revenue is expected to come from a combination of advertising on its site, and a rebate of a proportion of the money that its user pays for the 0845 call. These so-called telco kickbacks are said to be worth up to 20 per cent of the cost of the call.

One other "free" Internet service <free@themain.co.uk> mails advertisements to its members to earn part of its crust. One wonders if Dixons will be able to resist using its subscribers' e-mail for promotions. One thing is certain, there are no free lunches here.

### FEEDBACK

#### Janet should not censor students

Eva Pascoe's column on the restrictions placed on certain forms of expression by the Joint Academic Network ("The things Janet won't tell you", 21 September) is disturbing. It seems to me that one of the major functions of an academic computer network such as Janet is to encourage debate, not just between academics, but between students.

Maybe I'm wrong, but I thought university was about encouraging debate and giving students the chance to forward their views on whatever issue engages their interest, regardless of how controversial those views may be. If students are deemed too sensitive to handle, let alone argue against, a few strongly voiced opinions on Janet, then as Pascoe quite rightly said, we will get the underdeveloped graduates we deserve.

In my experience, the Net:

is the ideal place to develop debating skills. Lively debates often involve a clash of strongly held opinions and, inevitably, the adrenaline will flow as passions are aroused. If this is deemed to be unacceptable because it may cause "anxiety", then I fear for academic freedom and for free speech.

David Amis  
kam76@dial.pipex.com

Eva Pascoe draws the correct assumptions on how "the art of censorship" is practiced today on the Internet (*Network*, 21 September). Illustrating how a Kurdish Freedom Movement web site was removed by a university server recently because of "pragmatic" reasons, she rightly draws the conclusion that technical considerations can often mask moral opposition to "problematic" content.

This is a trend that is on the increase, with more and more web sites being pulled for excuses of "copyright

infringement or contractual obligations", which is fact, turn out to be Internet Service Providers acting on their perceived moral obligations to protect us from the "excesses" of the Internet.

Pascoe sees this as being problematic for university students being able to develop their critical faculties where anything "difficult" is removed. Unfortunately, this is not just an issue for students, but for all of us - unless you want the web to become like Channel 5!

Martyr Perks  
martyr@easyneuro.co.uk

Letters should be emailed to netcorrie@independent.co.uk or posted to Feedback, Network, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL. Letters should contain a postal address and telephone number, and may be edited for length and clarity.

**BYTES**

ANDY OLDFIELD

FOLLOWING A judge's ruling that the US government can go beyond the battle for the browser market and offer wider evidence of unfair competitive practices in its anti-trust case against Microsoft, attention has turned to allegations that the working relations between Microsoft and other companies went beyond co-operation and into the realm of collusion.

The Seattle Times reported last week allegations that, in a series of meetings between summer 1997 and April 1998, Microsoft tried to divide the market for media players with Apple Computer, and that a deal was proposed whereby Apple would abandon work on its core QuickTime technology, in exchange for Microsoft supporting Apple's video-editing tools - a move Apple is reported to have described as "knifing the baby". Microsoft denies any attempts at trying to divide the market between itself and its former rivalised business partner. It says the meetings were legal ways of trying to devise cross-licensing and technology-sharing arrangements. "Our discussions with Apple on streaming media technologies are the kinds of positive discussions that happen every day in the hi-tech industry, where companies outline their respective technologies and work together to ensure that their technologies will operate well together for consumers," Mark Murray, a Microsoft spokesman, said. "We did not attempt to divide the market with Apple or anyone else."

THE WHITE House last week agreed to support legislation to increase the number of foreign hi-tech professionals allowed into the United States, if employers agree to a series of assurances that protect US workers.

The number of temporary work visas will rise from 65,000 this year, to 115,000 next year and in 2000, dropping to 107,500 in 2001 and returning to 65,000 in 2002. Hi-tech companies employing temporary workers to address the disparity between jobs and those with the skills to fill them, will be subject to increased monitoring from the Labor Department and will face severe penalties if they fire US workers to hire foreign ones.

Revenue from visa applications

finance scholarships in maths,

engineering and computer science.

PLANS FOR an airborne broadband wireless network came closer to realisation last week when Angel Technologies launched its High Altitude Long Operation (Halo) jet aircraft over the Mojave desert in California. The aircraft is designed to deliver telephone and Internet communications while flying in a fixed pattern above urban areas.

"What we have done is put all the communications' capabilities of what might be a communications satellite 22,000 miles high... and put it 10 miles over a city," Peter Diamandis, Angel's CEO, said.

Halo's data-relay equipment will provide a footprint of 50 to 75 miles for high-speed (up to 25 megabits per second) voice and data transmissions from its cruising altitude of 50,000ft. Signals will be stronger than those beamed from low-earth satellites, and will not be blocked by buildings and

mountains, as is the case with transmissions from towers.

Diamandis said that costs were lower than using satellites. One hundred planes could be built for \$700m (£412m).

The cost of launching the Iridium satellite network was \$4.4bn (£2.6bn).

By bypassing existing fibre-based communications networks, which charge access fees, Angel intends to deliver high-speed, low-cost communications starting in Los Angeles in the year 2000.



Dr Craig Barrett, CEO of Intel: 'Our industry has an extraordinary amount of hype... It sets false expectations and confuses the consumer'

Neville Elder

## The CEO without an ego

Intel's Craig Barrett considers himself first and foremost an engineer. He talks to Stephen Pritchard

THE COMPUTER industry has its share of larger-than-life personalities and fragile corporate egos. It is a business in which companies with strong heads attract attention out of all proportion to their market shares or bottom lines. What is something of a common error.

Dr Craig Barrett is a man who dislikes both. As chief executive of Intel, Dr Barrett heads one of the most successful companies in a powerful industry. Information technology accounts for about half the growth of the entire US economy. But the management style of this 59-year-old engineer is in sharp contrast to the flamboyance of some of his peers, and, indeed, to that of his immediate predecessor at Intel, Andy Grove.

This is not something that worries Dr Barrett. His 23-year career at Intel came after 10 years' teaching engineering at Stanford University. A book he wrote then is still in widespread use in American universities. Dr Barrett still identifies himself first and foremost as an engineer, and Intel as an engineering company.

"I don't consider myself to be a businessman but an engineer who taught engineering," he explains. "I enjoy the technology, and I enjoy the technology out into the marketplace. I enjoy competition, and I enjoy the pragmatic parts of business. Our industry has an extraordinary amount of hype, but about developments which are going to replace the FC 2000s or outlandish claims

about benchmarks. It sets false expectations and confuses the consumer."

Intel, though, has a far higher profile now than in any time in its history. The "Intel Inside" campaign has been an enormous success and played a significant part in the dominance of the Intel-Windows standard in the desktop computer marketplace. Dr Barrett, then chief operations officer at Intel, played a big part in that success.

"We are still an engineering company, but we have partially transformed ourselves into a marketing company," he says. "The Intel Inside campaign was one of the largest in the universe; that was not an engi-

niering company-type programme. But we are still grounded in the technology."

The technology, and the possibilities it brings, accounts for much of Dr Barrett's personal motivation. "I love the technology, and I get to work with a great bunch of people. It is fun. If it wasn't fun, I would be fly-fishing in Montana," he admits.

Seeking refuge on his Montana ranch would certainly have been the easier option. Craig Barrett has taken on the chief executive's job at

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a tough time for Intel. Revenues are flat and the computer chip market is far from healthy. "Growth is our biggest challenge, both in existing and new markets," Dr Barrett admits. "We have had 18 months of flat revenues. We need the PC market to grow." New applications, such as digital imaging or electronic shopping, are areas Dr Barrett expects will drive people to buy their first PCs, and persuade existing users that they need to upgrade.

As a company, Intel invests millions of dollars in research into new markets for computers and computer chip technology. Moore's Law - the idea that chip performance doubles every 18 months - is holding true more than 30 years after Gordon Moore, one of Intel's founders, first conceived it. But faster chips come at a price.

A microchip factory is more than 10 times as expensive than a decade ago. Intel estimates the plants to build its next generation of chips will cost more than \$10bn. The company will have to sell huge numbers of chips to recoup that cost.

Between the wars, US car manufacturers reacted to flat demand for their wares by introducing new models far more frequently. New designs were calculated to make older cars look dated, and spur motorists to buy a replacement, even if their old cars still ran well. The idea was successful, if cynical. Computer users could be forgiven for thinking that the PC industry is using similar tactics today.

Ever-more complex software demands increasingly powerful com-

puters; users are forced to upgrade their programs to stay competitive, even if their old packages still work. They then need faster computers to run the new software, but gain little from the process themselves.

This is not an argument that finds favour with Dr Barrett. Last year, Intel invested some \$300m in new ventures; around half the money was spent outside the US. Some of this goes into new technologies which Intel can incorporate into its chips, motherboards or networking hardware. Some goes to find and develop new uses for computers.

Intel, for example, has invested significant sums in video conferencing, and it is one of the key partners in Blue Tooth, an industry group developing wireless networking for devices from mobile phones to laptop PCs. "We try to move the technology forward," Dr Barrett says.

"To a certain extent, the challenge is to find new uses for the technology, to ensure it is absorbed into the marketplace. We eat our products as fast as we make them: we spend a lot of time looking for new uses for our technology, to keep our internal growth growing."

Electronic commerce is one area Dr Barrett has high hopes for. Faster Internet connections and better graphics will make online shopping a far more attractive prospect for consumers. It also soaks up processing power. Nor are new applications the only motor for growth. We are working our computers harder, and using them for more tasks at once. This is for both

visible applications such as word-processing or surfing the Web, and for background tasks such as scanning for viruses, compressing images, or running software that detects a fault in a PC before it happens. Then there are demanding applications such as games.

"If you are over 15 years old, you may think what am I going to do with that performance?" Dr Barrett says. "If you are under 15, you never ask that. If you play interactive games, you will always want more power."

Interactive devices are another area where Intel expects to see growth. Digital TV sets, handheld computers and smart mobile

phones are volume businesses that could be far bigger than the market for conventional PCs. Intel now has a foothold in that business: it owns the StrongARM family of low-cost, low-power processors originally developed by Advanced RISC Machines in the UK.

The market for consumer interactive devices is important, but Dr Barrett does not subscribe to the view that it will replace the PC. He expects to see one billion connected PCs within a few years, and many

will be in homes. Many of those same boxes might buy a set-top box, too.

"I am firmly of the belief that when you sit down to be entertained, you sit down in front of the TV set. You want to be entertained, you want to be informed, or catch the news. You may not want to be terribly interactive," he says. "I think the PC and the TV will co-exist. If you want to be entertained, you sit in front of the TV set. If you want to be interactive, you will do that with a PC."

Intel's record in the low-cost computing business, though, has not been good. The market for PCs costing less than \$1,000 is one of the fastest growing, yet last year Intel found itself caught with a low-cost chip, and rivals, particularly AMD, closing the technology gap. Intel faced a fall in its market share.

The company reacted with the Celeron microprocessor. Celeron is now in its second, more powerful incarnation, which has been well-received by PC makers. Intel is making up for lost ground. Dr Barrett believes advanced technology and good engineering will keep his company ahead - and extend the power of the computers on our desks.

"Ultimately, the only way to stay ahead is to invest in the technology and bring it into the marketplace," says Dr Barrett. "We started out being lucky: our architecture was chosen by IBM (for its first PC). But since then we have invested our R&D dollars. If you stop investing, you'll become one of the crowd."

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## That's more information than I needed, Ken

THE CLINTON affair has done more than merely paralyse one of the globe's biggest economies. At a time when economists around the world are getting a little nervous.

Bills trotted, or more precisely, Kenneth Starr's "referrals" to the Starr Report are technically illegal, have brought a lot of attention to the Internet, and the Web can be used. And some of the uses - well, Houston, we have a problem.

This has been a crystallising event, for me anyway. When President Kennedy was killed, we Americans ran to TV for the news, and turned in the process that TV had fully replaced newspapers - our medium of choice.

When Princess Diana died last year, I and many others ran to our browsers, and confirmed that the Net had become the new medium of choice, at least among computer owners.

When the Starr Report was published on the Net, I stopped cold. I didn't zip over to the Library of Congress website to take in all the creepy details. Like at least a few other Americans, I knew enough, indeed, too much, already.

Clinton had been stupid. Monica Lewinsky had been rated out by a friend, and a frustrated Starr seems to have resorted to a smear campaign to justify the \$40m (£25m) his office has spent investigating the President.

The reams of salacious details that Starr seemed to think was fit for consumption by the general populace, weren't really something I wanted to deal with. That a Republican would publish this stuff on the Net struck me as, at least, a little disingenuous. The Library of Congress is not a site that is normally blocked by parental filtering software.

After all, Republicans were big supporters of the

Communications Decency Act last year, under whose guidelines Ken Starr, his staff and webmasters at the Library of Congress, could have been sent to federal prison. At least some Americans would have objected to the lurid and extensive sexual descriptions in the report.

For most of my life, the public media I look at and listen to have been like a moderated newsgroup. Newspapers and mainstream broadcasters have editors who filter and prioritise the news before it gets to me. Before the advent of the Net, the chances of something as sexually explicit as the Starr Report being offered in mainstream media would have effectively been zero.

Even today, most broadcasters were reluctant to read most of the passages in the Starr Report on the air; although many US newspapers published much of it, sex and all, on the grounds that it was public

already via the Internet, and Americans had a right to know. But this was more like the alt newsgroups, the unmoderated ones, where robot servers publish anything, no matter how stupid, salacious or brilliant it

might be - completely uncensored by an editor's judgement.

To me, the Starr Report reeks of a political hit job - and an expensive one, at that - cloaked as an independent investigation. Nowhere in this document do I see evidence of high crimes against the republic. Stupidity? Sure. Crimes? No.

Yet, thanks at least in part to the Internet, this document has, at the least, altered the course of history, and effectively shut down the machinery of the US government. I have to wonder what the implications are in an era where media and technology seem to be changing the balance of personal freedoms and responsibilities so clearly spelled out and protected by documents like the US Constitution.

Starr used the Net to publish a document that might well have been withheld from most other media. Some cynics and Democrats would say that that

would have been a good thing. But I'm starting to wonder if it really was the best thing. If only oblique references had been made from traditional media, many people might have assumed that there was more than smoke in the Starr Report. Rumour would have been rampant.

The sordid reality, cigars and all, let us all be judges of just how hideous these crimes were. The report made public, for all the agony and soul-searching it wrought, allowed Americans, and, indeed, the world, to form their own judgement.

The scarred thing, for me, was the effect on privacy. While most of us are not famous enough that our sexual adventures are likely to interest anyone outside a small circle of neighbours and co-workers, the Clinton affair has certainly set a new standard for "outing" normally private behaviour. Most of us don't expect intimate

details of our sex lives to be published where the whole world can see them.

People are already vulnerable to irresponsible attacks on the Net: a number of individuals and companies have suffered because of unfounded, anonymous rumours, circulated via e-mail. In the wake of Ken Starr, nothing (except boredom) stops you, or anyone else with Net access, from publishing the Chris Guleker sex report.

While that document is not likely to be widely read, and nor are its authors likely to advance their agenda, it would still be awfully annoying and embarrassing to me. Lacking a censoring medium, anyone could attack anyone else. Given a little bad timing, this could be personally inconvenient.

But, maybe, if I really did it, it's just better that I have to face the music.

cg@guleker.com



CHRIS GULEKER

When the Starr Report was published on the Net, I stopped cold

JAY COLE

# Boys don't cry, they send e-mail

The Net is giving troubled teens somewhere to go for help. One person they turn to is Matthew Whyman, AOL's agony uncle

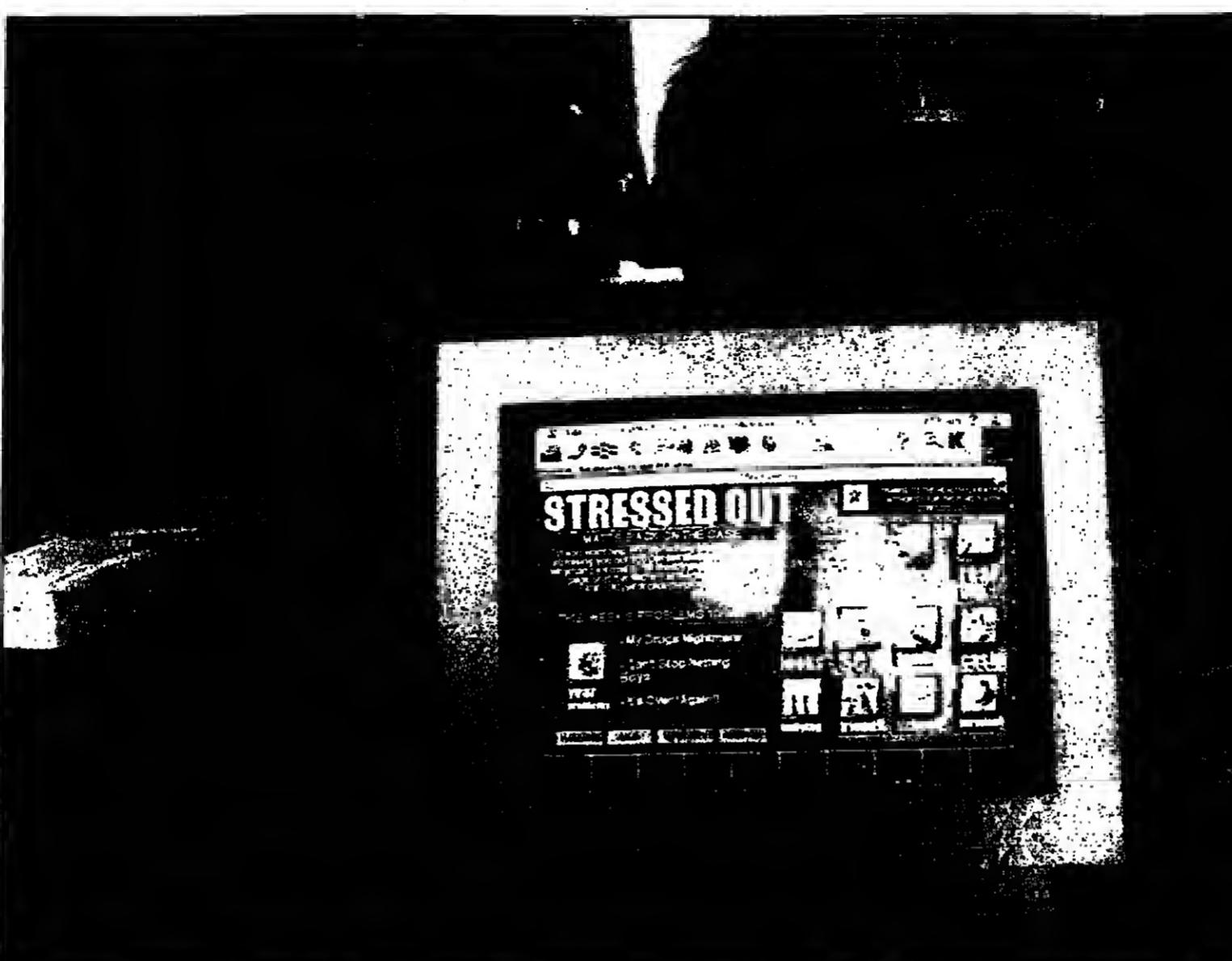
**I**t's been a year since I took up the post as AOL's first agony uncle. In that time, however, I haven't received a single letter. My filing cabinet, indexed from *Aberrations to Zits*, remains empty. Meanwhile, I continue to deal with problems by the parcel-load from *Bliss*, the teenage girls' magazine, who hire me as their Love Doctor.

So why hasn't AOL asked me to finish my glass of brandy and hang up my smoking jacket? In a word, e-mail. Each week, I get more than 250 pleas for help from switched-on but stressed-out teens. Welcome to the paperless problem page.

Online, the questions range across a huge spectrum, reflecting the complexities of life for young people at the end of the 1990s. All the standards are there: sex and sexuality; friends and foes; life at school and home; drink and drug-related difficulties. Some of the questions highlight a sophisticated understanding of certain areas, while others expose huge knowledge gaps. Yet the most striking aspect of the AOL service is that more than 50 per cent of the e-mails are from boys.

Until now, the agony column has been a strictly female preserve. It's the staple part of any young women's magazine. There, readers learn about themselves through other people's grief. Whether it's love, life, sex or body worries, the mags have got it covered. Visit any school and you'll find a gaggle of girls gathered around the latest copy of *Bliss*, *Sugar*, *Mizz*, *More* or *J17*. Often they use the issues raised by the agony pages as a springboard for discussion, and seize the chance to talk intimately while the lads are out playing football. Which is where the problem for boys comes into focus.

The worst thing about being male is our inability to express emotions. From an early age we're told to be brave and not cry, while our role models tend to be archetypal hard men like Arnie or Sly. For a young lad to ask for help or advice is like an admission of weakness. Our fathers are often unable or unwilling



Matthew Whyman: 'If you're an adolescent male, ill-at-ease with communicating on a face-to-face level, then the Net is the perfect medium' Kalpesh Lathigra

to talk, while turning to our mates is an open invitation to be ridiculed. Instead, we bottle things up, then run off our pent-up energies by hooling a ball about. And worse.

In 1996, 785 people aged 15-24 committed suicide in the UK, of which 80 per cent were male. When things get tough for lads, half the bat-

tle for them is knowing how to ask for help.

So why has the AOL agony page proved such a magnet for mixed-up young men? What is it about cyberspace that encourages them to unb burden their deepest fears and worries? Most significantly, boys tend to log on alone, shut off from

the influence of their mates. This renders the Internet free of peer pressure. Lads can ask any range of questions without fear of a backlash, being laughed at or ridiculed.

Throughout history men have formed a strong relationship with machines. They understand computers, speak their language, feel

comfortable in their company. The isolated environment is a liberation for them, not a catalyst for social ruin. If you're an adolescent male, ill-at-ease with communicating on a face-to-face level, then the Net is the perfect medium.

Another big online lad-lure is the anonymity. In cyberspace, nobody

knows who you are. Consequently during AOL's monthly UKLive agony auditorium, I find myself faced with what appears to be some kind of virtual gangland gathering. "Hammerhead", "Massive", "Speedcore", and "Killa24" - row upon row of menacing-sounding monikers pitch up for a session, and often stay the hour.

It's only when I click on their personal profiles, however, that little pert, 13, from Surrey emerges, with invariably come for reassurance that he hasn't got a tiny penis, or ask if there's a helpline he can call because he thinks he might be gay. By hiding behind their mask screen names, boys are free to ask sensitive questions without being identified. The girls enjoy it, too, enabling both parties to find out more about the opposite sex. They also ask their questions unanswered straight away. Something which appeals deeply to the male psyche - the need for instant gratification.

As for the nature of the questions boys ask generally I find they are quite similar to those voiced by girls. From mental health to media myths, body image and relationship problems, there is not much to distinguish between the sexes. What girls are quick to seek help, however, boys tend to wait until things are really bad. While a young woman might write in because her boyfriend's turned against her, a boy will only speak out after two or three terms of intense bullying.

Problems like these are rarely solved in a few sharp sentences. Often more intimate counselling is required. In this respect, AOL's agony page and monthly auditorium work best as a referral service. If a young person has come to the Net for help, then I feel it's appropriate to put them in touch with organisations offering specialist advice within the same medium.

The Samaritans - <http://www.samaritans.org.uk> - and The Sib - <http://www.thesite.org.uk> - are keenly aware of the Web's appeal and provide invaluable online information and support.

Ultimately, as more young people find their lives hard-wired to the Net, so we should become more aware of its potential to help them deal with their problems.

AOL subscribers can access Matthew Whyman's problem page at keyword: STRESSED OUT or e-mail [whymanuk@aol.com](mailto:whymanuk@aol.com)

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If you would like further information on this post, please telephone Roseanne Richardson on 0171 332 1919 (CVs only are not acceptable)

Please inform us via fax of further information on this post, please telephone Simon Lester on 0171 332 3984, Surjit Pardesi on 0171 332 1367 or Patricia Williams on 0171 332 1367.

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Sept 20 1998

# Bewitched by a magical singer

**She looks like Elizabeth Montgomery and sounds like Joni Mitchell. But the diminutive Dar Williams is her own woman.** By Glyn Brown

**F**olk-rock singer Dar Williams and her best friend and road manager, the fantastically named Bellamy Paithrop, are a patient pair. Not only are the two women negotiating their way, together with a guitar, across a great swathe of Europe so that Williams can play her acoustic show each and every night, but they are putting up with me for part of the journey.

When I joined them last Monday in Belgium, they had just shuttled down from Frankfurt, and were looking tired, though not as tired as they are going to be after Holland, Hamburg, Munich, Zurich, Dublin and several shows in the UK.

Both live in Massachusetts, Paithrop a good-looking amazon and Williams, a tiny, frail and unassuming 30-year-old woman in flat boots and glasses. She is lethally bright and optimistically witty but, after a long drive and three local interviews – “I should just about be able to do this show before I collapse,” she says – you wonder how she will muster the energy for the job at Brussels’ Ancienne Belgique.

It is not a problem. On stage alone in the darkened club, she has unleashed her blonde hair, ditched the specs – but Miss Williams! You’re beautiful – and looks rather like Elizabeth Montgomery from *Bewitched*. She says her guitar playing is “elementary”, but it does not seem that way; her three-octave voice is sweet, full and best compared to Joni Mitchell’s.

As for the songs – well, they can make you catch your breath. They deal with everything from friends to love to the evil influence of the Wal-Mart chain on the stateside community. As she begins a number, you can hear her whisper to herself “Here I go”. But that is not vulnerability; she is a droll raconteur and, by the end of the evening, the audience is roaring for more of her music, self-deprecating quips and Gilda Radner-style gurning.

That was Monday. On Tuesday we were in Paithrop’s silver hatchback heading toward Amsterdam, which should be a simple 200km skip.

Williams and I are on map-reading duty, but deep in conversation about Gary Oldman, who appears on billboards everywhere advertising clothes, when we miss a vital turn.

“Oh man, girls!” roars Paithrop, incensed. Back on track, we aim for Antwerp, which we should skirt on the ring road. We are following the last hotel’s instructions, using a map bought from them; so why has the motorway they suggested disappeared? The map turns out to be 20 years old, and before we know it

we are lost amid bakeries, bicycles and viciously hooting cars.

“Let’s relax,” says Williams, the soul of calm. “This gives us a chance to see if we’d ever like to come back to Antwerp.” Someone bellows as we crunch across a tramline. “And I think the answer’s no.”

We emerge bound inexorably for Rotterdam, a serious detour when the sound check is at 4pm. Williams, however, keeps us entertained with highlights from her role as a singing potato in a student film, and we cruise down the E106 all joining in the chorus: “Hey! Mr French Fry, waddya know.”

Unbelievably, we make Amsterdam’s Paradiso Club with time to spare, and this is where Williams and I sit down to talk at length. It is where it becomes clear that her equanimity has been a hard-won thing. Born in the New York suburb of Chappaqua, Williams was the youngest of three competitive sisters in a bookish household.

Left with the things the other two were not that great at, she took a religion and theatre course at college and, almost predictably, developed clinical depression.

It had to be her sister who noticed. “I asked her: ‘Um, does everyone think a lot about killing themselves?’ And she said: ‘Oh God, we’ve got a basket case.’”

Williams found herself in therapy; and it worked.

“Depression gives you the idea that your own agenda is not important, and it’s amazing how hardly you’ll take care of yourself,” she says.

“Not only do you feel inferior, you feel so unenriched to a normal life, you don’t allow yourself the benefit of your usual coping mechanisms.”

A grin. “So if I burn my breakfast now, I realise I have to do a lot of self-maintenance around not turning it into a grand trauma, part of the string of failures that has been my whole life.”

These days, she is happy to send up her weaker moments and not worry if some people think she is nuts, because it might help others realise that they are not.

Resurfacing, Williams turned from theatre to her childhood friend, the guitar.

She sang in Boston’s coffee shops, toured relentlessly and in 1995 brought out a CD, *The Honesty Room*, full of stories about punk gods, Mark Rothko paintings and one particularly tender track, “You’re Aging Well”, about a girl who repaints knuckle-rapping street signs on the road to old age with the message: “It always starts here....”

*Mortal City*, which appeared the following year, is deeper and more passionate. It features the standout “If it’s true”.

“Mortal City” is out now on Razor & Tie Records. Dar Williams appears at Bristol Fiddler’s (0117-929 9008) on 30 Sept; Dublin Whelans on 2 Oct; London Queen Elizabeth Hall (0171-960 4201/4221) on 3 Oct; Edinburgh La Belle Angle (0141-287 5511) on 5 Oct; Chester Telford Warehouse (01244 390090) on 6 Oct.

*The End of the Summer* is out now on Razor & Tie Records. Dar Williams appears at Bristol Fiddler’s (0117-929 9008) on 30 Sept; Dublin Whelans on 2 Oct; London Queen Elizabeth Hall (0171-960 4201/4221) on 3 Oct; Edinburgh La Belle Angle (0141-287 5511) on 5 Oct; Chester Telford Warehouse (01244 390090) on 6 Oct

Williams’ songs deal with everything from love to the evil influence of the Wal-Mart chain

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# When first impressions are tragic

**Stefan Kiszko seemed to fit the profile of a child killer, but the courts were wrong – sadly wrong. By Clive King**

**A**ccording to the calendar it should be spring but out on the freezing, rain-sodden Pennines it feels more like a nuclear winter. The eerie white-grey light certainly suits the mood of the scene unfolding before me; this morning television director Stephen Whittaker (best known for *Hearts and Minds*) is recreating the moment in October 1975 when the body of 11-year-old Lesley Molseed was discovered on the moors.

Lesley had been stabbed repeatedly and her clothes were stained with semen, so the police knew they were looking for a monster. Fate provided the perfect suspect when 23-year-old Stefan Kiszko came to their attention, accused of indecently exposing himself to two schoolgirls. Stefan was an awkward, overweight and uncommunicative man who still lived at home in Rochedale with his widowed mother, Charlotte. It took not so much a leap of imagination to cast him in the role of child-killer.

Remanded in custody, Stefan signed a confession to the murder, which he retracted almost immediately. This statement, made by a scared and confused man, formed the basis for the prosecution's case. Kiszko continued to protest his innocence, although his defence counsel, David Waddington QC, tried to persuade him to plead guilty on the grounds of diminished responsibility. Stefan was then sentenced to life imprisonment. On his first night in Wakefield Prison, he was beaten up by six other convicts. As a convicted child-killer, he was the lowest form of prison life; solitary confinement under Rule 43 failed to protect him from further attacks and exacerbated the slow disintegration of his mental health.

Despite a chronic lung disease, Charlotte campaigned tirelessly for her son's release. After years of being stonewalled by police, politicians and the legal system, she finally found a sympathetic solicitor, Campbell Malone, who unearthed vital forensic evidence that had not been presented at Kiszko's trial: the semen found on the victim's underwear contained sperm. Stefan

was sterile. Malone convinced David Waddington, who had risen through the ranks from QC to Home Secretary, to order a police re-investigation. Finally, 16 years after his conviction, a mis-trial was declared and Kiszko returned home.

"At one point, we were going to call the film *Scopegoat*, because that's really what it's all about," the film's producer, Malcolm Craddock tells me as we trudge through the glutinous mud to the welcome comfort of a pub. There we are joined by screenwriter Peter Berry and by Campbell Malone, who is acting as a consultant to the production. "I keep suggesting they should call it *Delusions of Innocence*," says Malone. "The authorities regarded Stefan as a schizophrenic with delusions of innocence."

In the event, the two-hour television drama has been called *A Life for a Life*, a movie-of-the-week title which fails to convey the delicate, un-exploitative approach the film-makers have taken to their potentially sensational subject matter.

"Very shortly after Stefan's release, the Kiszkos received several serious approaches to make a film," recalls Malone. "Charlotte and Stefan were very much in favour of telling the story and I felt they should choose the people to do it. In a sense we auditioned the producers and directors."

Neither mother nor son lived to see themselves portrayed by Oscar-winner Olympia Dukakis and newcomer Tony Maudsley; Stefan suffered a fatal heart attack 18 months after his release and Charlotte passed away six months later.

"My impression when I met them was that they were completely bound together," remarks Craddock. "You know how sometimes you meet a married couple who are so dependent on each other that if one goes the other will go very quickly." He adds there was nothing "unwholesome" about this mother-son symbiosis, something Berry also stresses when he talks about the time he spent with the Kiszkos while researching the script.

The first time he met Stefan, Berry was confronted by his own prejudices: "I realised that if I had been on that jury, I might have

been swayed by the way he looked."

Stefan's manner did nothing to assuage the writer's initial discomfort.

"I sat down and talked to him and realised he wasn't talking back. He didn't say anything for the whole day. After 10 or 12 minutes, I ran out of sensible things to say and I thought 'We're blown.'

"When I arrived the next day, he stood up and walked out. Then he returned, with the strongest cups of tea in the world, and talked just a little. On the third day, he was much more open. In the end, one of the difficulties I had was getting the information I needed for the story, without making it too painful for Stefan."

Charlotte was much more forthcoming. "She could talk under wet cement," laughs Berry. "She would talk and talk and talk and talk. She'd say 'This is what you've got to get right, Mr Writer!'"

A Slovenian immigrant who came to Britain at 18, Charlotte was used to fighting her corner. Living in

post-war England with a Germanic accent and bringing up an odd-looking, socially awkward son made sure of that.

"I'm sure her maternal instinct was in overdrive," says Olympia Dukakis who, when we meet, has

met her at a BAFTA awards ceremony and recounted Stefan's tale. "I was very moved by their passion and their dedication," she recalls.

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had that kind of peasant mentality where you accept what God has given you, and take on the responsibility for it.

"Of course, that gets interpreted as being a domineering and over-protective mother. But she looked for

ways to make him feel good about himself, as any parent would.

"She encouraged his talents for music and languages. And when difficulty occurred, she didn't sit back and take the blows. She did something about it."

Dukakis got involved with the project when Craddock and Whittaker

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## NEW FILMS

### CUBE (15)

Director: Vincenzo Natali  
Starring: Maurice Dean Wint, David Hewlett, Nicole de Boer

This Canadian science-fiction thriller takes an ingenious idea – a group of strangers trapped within a gigantic booby-trapped cube try to figure out their escape route and the meaning of their existence – but reduces the intellectual possibilities to the condescending level of a GCSE study guide.

West End: ABC Pantin Street, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza

### DEEP RISING (15)

Director: Stephen Sommers  
Starring: Treat Williams, Farrah Fawcett, Jason Flemyng, Anthony Head  
Ramshackle B-movie-style thriller about a cruise liner attacked by a mysterious and savage underwater monster. Treat Williams copes manfully with the abysmal dialogue, and our own Jason Flemyng gets to fire automatic weapons at big slimy beasts, which is not the sort of thing that an English actor gets to do every day of the week.

West End: Odeon West End

### SECRET DEFENSE (PG)

Director: Jacques Rivette  
Starring: Sandrine Bonnaire, Jerzy Radziwillowicz, Grégoire Colin (subtitles)

The first 90 minutes of Rivette's icy, elegant new film are brilliant and hypnotic: Sylvie (the transfixing Sandrine Bonnaire) is a scientist whose brother steals into her laboratory to steal her gun and reveal some devastating news – he knows who killed their father. Sylvie tries to prevent him from taking action, but is smugged by the friction between her indecision, and her inclination for revenge. Rivette's camera doesn't miss a thing – the film's most impressive sequence comes when it simply follows Sylvie on a train journey, recording every detail in an attempt to amplify her feelings of awkwardness. The downside of the director's watchfulness is that any exposition which surfaces during the action feels

clumsy; dialogue which is needed to clarify motivation or relationships is mechanical.

West End: *Rivette*

**THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT MARY (15)**  
Director: Peter & Bobby Farrelly  
Starring: Cameron Diaz, Ben Stiller, Matt Dillon, Lee Evans, Chris Elliott

*There's Something About Mary* is the new comedy from the pathologically tasteless writer-director team of Peter and Bobby Farrelly. But it's not the movie's steady trickle of off-colour gags that is outrageous so much as the fact that most of them have already been revealed months in advance by the picture's trailer:

Ben Stiller is heartbreakingly the nerdy Ted, who ruins his Prom night date with the local beauty, Mary (Cameron Diaz), when he has an ugly accident with his zipper. Flash forward 18 years, and Ted's life is in limbo because he can't get over his former near-date.

West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Finsbury Park, Virgin Fulham Road

### WOO (15)

Director: Daisy VS Mayer  
Starring: Jada Pinkett Smith, Tommy Davidson, Duane Martin

Jada Pinkett Smith and executive producer John Singleton (who directed *Boyz N the Hood*) are only two of the talents wasted in this witless comedy. What plot there is revolves around the love life of a woman named Woo (Pinkett Smith), and the efforts of various suitors to bed her. The jokes and skits will prompt only embarrassed silences, but more surprisingly, the film evidently couldn't care less about its characters.

West End: Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero

Ryan Gilbey

## GENERAL RELEASE

### ARMAGEDDON (12)

This deeply stupid film purports to be a tender love story, a meaty action adventure and a global disaster movie in which a meteor is on a collision course with Earth. Its jumble of styles will end up pleasing no one.

West End: Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

### BABYMOTHER (15)

An endearing reggae musical which takes an old idea and douses it in gaudy colours. The film focuses on Anita (Anjela Lauren Smith), a "babymother" who longs to be a reggae star but is hampered by her responsibility to her son and daughter.

West End: Ritzy Cinema

### LE BOSSU (15)

Sumptuous swashbucklers are fast becoming French cinema's stock-in-trade. This effort doesn't break much new ground but is acted and shot with such magnificent braggadocio that its lack of originality is never a problem.

West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Curzon Minima, Phoenix Cinema

### CHARACTER (KARAKTER) (15)

Mike Van Dien's intelligent but uneven drama about betrayal won this year's Oscar for Best Foreign Language film. It certainly comes equipped with what the Academy adores, but the picture is never as gripping as it should have been.

West End: Curzon Mayfair

### COUSIN BETTE (15)

Balzac's novel about romance and deception in 19th-century France is the basis for this shallow but breezy comedy.

West End: Odeon Mezzanine

### THE DOOM GENERATION (18)

Gregg Araki continues his investigation of apocalyptic modern America with this gory, tongue-in-cheek road movie about a couple who hit the road with a psychotic friend. Fun for the first half-hour; deadening for the rest.

West End: ABC Piccadilly

### DR DOLITTLE (PG)

The thought of Eddie Murphy functioning within the restrictions of a PG certificate may not be a promising one but Dr Dolittle proves that his talents are surprisingly pliable.

West End: Hammett Virgin, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Finsbury Park, Warner Village West End

### THE HORSE WHISPERER (PG)

Robert Redford's film of Nicholas Evans's novel is a textbook lesson in the narcissistic allure of cinema. Redford plays a Montana farmer who specialises in equine psychology and agrees to help a New York magazine editor, Kristin Scott Thomas, whose daughter has been traumatised in a riding accident.

West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

### KISSING A FOOL (15)

Yet another comedy about the male fear of commitment and yet another film with nothing original to say on the matter. Stars David Schwimmer; best known as Ross in *Friends*.

West End: Virgin Trocadero

### THE LAND GIRLS (12)

Rachel Weisz, Catherine McCormack and Anna Friel are the "land girls" called upon in WWII to pick up the discarded ploughs and take the place of the farmers who have departed for war. Nothing surprising here, but very nicely done.

West End: Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

### THE LAST DAYS OF DISCO (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.

West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Pantin Street, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

### LETAL WEAPON 4 (15)

The latest instalment of the ingratiating comedy-thriller series. This time, Detectives Riggs (Mel Gibson) and Murtaugh (Danny Glover) are up against the Triads in the counterfeiting trade, but a more pressing issue is their own middle-age. A largely joyless, anachronized ride.

West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

### LOCK, STOCK & TWO SMOKING BARRELS (18)

Guy Ritchie's film follows the lead of Quentin Tarantino, but its defining characteristic is a resilient morality. The picture is peopled by thugs both amateur and professional. Young Eddy, who comes unstuck in a high-stakes card game, falls into the former category; but Hatchet Harry, to whom he owes £500,000, is a dangerous old-school pro.

West End: Gate Notting Hill, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

### ABC BAKER STREET

(0171-9020418) ♦ Baker Street

The Last Days of Disco 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Lethal Weapon 4 2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm

### ABC PANTON STREET

(0171-9020404) ♦ Piccadilly Circus, The Big Lebowski

1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Cube 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.45pm, 8.25pm Live Flesh 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm

### ABC PICCADILLY

(0171-287 4322) (from 1pm) ♦ Piccadilly Circus, The Big Lebowski

1.25pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm Cube 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.45pm, 8.25pm Live Flesh 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.20pm

### ABC SWISS CENTRE

(0170-9020403) ♦ Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus, Le Bossu

1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.45pm, 8.25pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm Zero Effect 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 5.10pm, 6.40pm, 8.40pm

### ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD

(0170-9020414) ♦ Tottenham Court Road, Lethal Weapon 4 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.10pm Saving Private Ryan 1.05pm, 3.20pm, 5.40pm, 7.50pm There's Something About Mary 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm

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West End: Odeon West End, Virgin Trocadero

### THE SPANISH PRISONER (PG)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.

West End: Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

### THE X-FILES (15)

David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson reprise their roles as FBI agents Mulder and Scully, and for their first big-screen outing, get a meaty comidram to chew on, involving a shifty secret government and a deadly virus from outer space. Duchovny and Anderson are most engaging through little dialogue and even less facial movement they manage to convey great tenderness.

West End: Odeon West End, Virgin Trocadero

### THE SPY WHO LOVED ME (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.

West End: Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End

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### THE SPY WHO LOVED ME (15)

See *The Independent Recommends*, above.

West End: Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Hay

KINGSTON  
ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409)  
BR: Kingston Lethal Weapon 4 2pm,  
5.10pm, 8pm Saving Private Ryan  
2.10pm, 7.20pm There's  
Something About Mary 2.10pm,  
5.30pm, 8.10pm

MUSWELL HILL  
ODISON (0121-315 4217) ♦ High-  
gate Lethal Weapon 4 12.10pm,  
4.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm Saving  
Private Ryan 12.25pm, 4pm,  
7.40pm There's Something About  
Mary 12.40pm, 3.20pm, 6pm,  
8.30pm

PICKHAM  
PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR:  
Peckham Rye BabyMother  
5.45pm, 7.35pm, 9.25pm Eve's  
Bayou 6.40pm He Got Game  
8.40pm Lethal Weapon 4 3.40pm,  
6.20pm, 7pm Lock, Stock & Two  
Smoking Barrels 4.10pm,  
7.10pm, 9.30pm Saving Private  
Ryan 5.20pm, 8.45pm There's  
Something About Mary 3.50pm,  
8.25pm, 9.05pm The X-Files  
4.20pm

PURLEY  
ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley  
Bridge BFI: Purley Lethal Weapon  
4.2.5pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm Saving  
Private Ryan 7.10pm  
There's Something About Mary  
5.10pm, 8.10pm

RUTHERFORD  
ABC (0870-9020401) ♦ Purley  
Bridge BFI: Purley Lethal Weapon  
4.2.5pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm Saving  
Private Ryan 4.15pm,  
7.45pm There's Something About  
Mary 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.30pm

RICHMOND  
ODEON (0181-315 4218) BR/G:  
Richmond Lethal Weapon 4  
12.40pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 8.10pm  
Saving Private Ryan 1.45pm,  
4.50pm, 5.30pm, 8.30pm There's  
Something About Mary 1pm, 3.50pm,  
6.30pm, 9.20pm

ODEON STUDIO (0181-315 4218)  
BR/G: Richmond Cube 3.30pm,  
6.30pm, 9.10pm The Horse  
Whisperer 1pm, 4.30pm, 8.10pm  
The Land Girls 1.20pm Lock, Stock  
& Two Smoking Barrels 1.40pm,  
4.45pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm

ROMFORD  
ABC (0870-9020419) BR: Romford:  
Leigh Woods 4 2.20pm, 5pm,  
8.15pm Saving Private Ryan  
2.25pm, 7.30pm There's  
Something About Mary 2.10pm,  
5.45pm, 8.45pm

SIDCUP  
ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup  
Lethal Weapon 4 5.15pm, 8.15pm  
Saving Private Ryan 4pm, 7.30pm

STAPLES CORNER  
VIRGIN (0870-9070717) BR: Cricket-  
lewood Lethal Weapon 4 12.30pm,  
3.15pm, 6pm, 8.45pm Saving  
Private Ryan 1.30pm, 4pm, 5pm,  
7.45pm, 8.30pm There's  
Something About Mary 12.15pm,  
3pm, 5.45pm, 8.40pm The X-Files  
5.50pm, 8.35pm

STRATFORD  
ABC (0870-9020415) BR:  
Stratford Hill/Brixton/Cottenham  
Lethal Weapon 4 1pm, 4.45pm,  
5.45pm, 8.45pm Saving Private  
Ryan 2.20pm, 7.45pm The X-Files  
3.40pm, 5.30pm, 6.25pm, 8.15pm,  
9.15pm

STREATHAM  
ABC (0870-9020415) BR:  
Streatham Hill Deep Rising 2.25pm,  
5.45pm, 8.45pm Saving Private  
Ryan 1.20pm, 4.10pm, 7.40pm There's  
Something About Mary 12.15pm,  
3.15pm, 5.55pm, 8.35pm Woot-  
2.25pm, 2.50pm, 4.50pm,  
6.50pm, 8.50pm

SWANSEA  
ODEON (0181-315 4219) BR:  
Stratford Hill/Brixton/Cottenham  
Lethal Weapon 4 1pm, 4.45pm,  
5.45pm, 8.45pm Saving Private  
Ryan 2.20pm, 7.45pm The X-Files  
3.40pm, 5.30pm, 6.25pm, 8.15pm,  
9.15pm

TURNPIKE LANE  
CORONET (0181-888 2519) ♦  
Tunbridge Lethal Weapon 4 1pm,  
4.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.45pm Saving  
Private Ryan 4.05pm, 7.45pm  
There's Something About Mary  
3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

SURREY QUAYS  
UCI (0990 888990) ♦ Surrey Quays:  
Armageddon 1.45pm, 5pm,  
8.30pm, 9.30pm Donnie Darko 2pm,  
4.30pm, 6pm, 8.20pm Lock, Stock  
& Two Smoking Barrels 2pm,  
4.45pm, 7pm, 9.45pm Saving  
Private Ryan 4.05pm, 7.45pm  
There's Something About Mary  
3.30pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

UXBRIDGE  
ODEON (01895-813139) ♦  
Uxbridge Lethal Weapon 4 1.40pm,  
5.10pm, 8.20pm There's  
Something About Mary 12.50pm,  
3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

WALTHAMSTOW  
ABC (0870-9020424) ♦ Waltham-  
stow Central Lethal Weapon 4  
1.45pm, 4.45pm, 8.15pm Saving  
Private Ryan 2.30pm, 7.30pm  
There's Something About Mary  
2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.20pm

WALTON  
THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-  
252825) BR: Walton on Thames:  
Lethal Weapon 4 2.50pm, 5.40pm,  
8.20pm Saving Private Ryan  
2.20pm, 7.30pm

WELL HALL  
CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR:  
Eltham Lethal Weapon 4 3pm,  
5.45pm, 8.20pm Saving Private  
Ryan 4.05pm, 7.45pm

WILLESDEN  
BELLE-VUE (0181-830 0822)  
♦ Willesden Green Lethal Weapon  
4 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm

WIMBLEDON  
ODEON (0181-315 4222) BR/  
Wimbledon The Horse Whisperer  
4.15pm, 5pm Lock, Stock &  
Two Smoking Barrels 4.10pm,  
5.20pm, 8.20pm Saving  
Private Ryan 4.05pm, 7.45pm  
There's Something About Mary  
2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.20pm

WOODFORDE  
ABC (0181-868 3463) ♦ South  
Woodford Lethal Weapon 4  
2.20pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm Saving  
Private Ryan 4.05pm, 7.45pm  
There's Something About Mary  
2.10pm, 5.10pm, 8.20pm

WOOD GREEN  
NEW CURIOS (0181-347 5664)  
♦ Turnpike Lane Dil To Pagal Hai  
Phone for details Dulha Rahe Phone  
for details Gharwall Bawaliwala  
Phone for details Jai Pyar Kiste  
Hoi Hoi Hoi Phone for details Mahaari  
Phone for details Salamanik Phone  
for details

WOOLWICH  
CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR:  
Woolwich Arsenal Saving Private  
Ryan 4.05pm, 7.40pm There's  
Something About Mary 3.35pm,  
6.25pm, 9.05pm The X-Files  
4.20pm

CINEMA  
REPERTORY

LONDON  
CINE LUMIERE Queenberry Place  
SW1 (0171-838 2144/2146) Secret  
Defence [PG] 7pm

NFT South Bank SE1 (0171-928  
238) The Third Man [PG] 2.30pm

The Secret People [PG] 6.15pm  
Happy Together [15] 6.30pm  
Cast Preview: A Soldier's Daughter  
Never Cries + The Guardian  
Interview With Kris Kristofferson  
[NC] 8.30pm Spellbound [PG]  
3.15pm

NOTRE DAME HALL: VOLCANO  
MUSIC FESTIVAL '98 Leicester Place  
WC2 (0171-833 1009) Road Movies  
2: Shorts [NC] 8.30pm

PEPSI IMAX The Trocadero,  
Piccadilly Circus W1 (0171-494  
4513) Everest [PG] 4.05pm L5 -  
In Space [U] 11.55am, 2pm,  
6.20pm, 8.45pm, 10.30pm Across  
The Universe - A New York Adventure  
[3-D] [U] 10.45am, 7.45pm, 9.45pm  
2.55pm, 5.10pm, 7.45pm, 9.45pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place  
WC2 (0171-437 8181) Wng The  
Dog [15] 1pm The Adventures Of  
Robin Hood [U] 3.30pm Angels  
With Dirty Faces [MC] 6.15pm As  
Good As It Gets [15] 9pm

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS Crisp Road  
WG (0171-420 0100) Mommie  
Dad [MC] 6.15pm + Psycho 8.45pm

BRIGHTON  
CINEMATEQUE (01273-739970)  
Nowhere [18] 8pm

DUKE OF YORKS (01273-602503)  
The Last Days Of Disco [15]

EDINBURGH (0117-925 3845) He  
Got Game [18] 6.30pm Love Is The  
Dish [18] 6.05pm, 8.30pm Jack  
Shaw And Ken Jacobs: Shorts [NC]  
8.15pm

CAMBRIDGE  
ARTS (01223-504444) Le Bossu  
[15] 2pm, 6.50pm The Last Days  
Of Disco [15] 4.30pm, 9.10pm

BRISTOL  
WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) He  
Got Game [18] 6.30pm Love Is The  
Dish [18] 6.05pm, 8.30pm Jack  
Shaw And Ken Jacobs: Shorts [NC]  
8.15pm

BRUNELLE  
CAMERON (01223-504444) Le  
Bossu [15] 2pm, 6.50pm The Last  
Days Of Disco [15] 4.30pm, 9.10pm

CINEMA  
COUNTRYWIDE

NORFOLK  
PHOENIX PICTURE HOUSE  
Neuf 5125 He Got Game [18] 1.30pm,  
8pm The Spanish Prisoner [PG]  
1.45pm, 4pm Les Amants du Pont  
Neuf [15] 6.30pm

CINEMA  
COUNTRYWIDE



**NICHOLAS LEZARD**

**TELEVISION REVIEW**  


WHEN I WAS about ten years old, during the interminable summer, I was told me an Edward Heath joke. Q. Why does Edward Heath wear swimming trunks in the bath? A. Because he doesn't like to look down on the unemployed. I don't get it. (Final, Edward Heath, quips again about him, ate what? Patricia like Macmillan, ability or the qualities of all human evil like Thatcher.)

So Edward Heath is a Profile (BBC) was unexpectedly interesting, startling out, all I heard from him sounded himself out, literally, very well the man Wilson described as "a clever boating for a spin to run up." He learned that he was a minister's boy ("Everyting revolved around Ted"), said his skeleton (law), But why we really wanted was some plain about his successor, Wilson before the war to speak out again, apparently, and became pro-Zimbabwe after it. In order that this kind of thing never happened again.

But what we really wanted was what he had been doing, and found out enough about his successor, as leader of the Tories. We had to wait for him. (An interview, Mutual, October, watching a clip of his election victory, said you don't talk very often.) "Do you expect me," said Heath, "to throw up my arms and say 'Righto, righto?'?" When Thatcher lost the leadership, "It was said you rang your office and said 'Righto,' replied Heath. "Righto, what's righto?" (Big grin.) Now that was

more like it. The film-makers also thought the joke also implied that he was socially concerned. In a sort of trout, a figure of fun, but not running cold, well, not just that he was sensitive, but that there was something more than just a desire for personal, like Macmillan, ability or the qualities of all human evil like Thatcher.

**ARTS PROGRAMME OF THE DAY**

**ONINNERS, CAT PEOPLE** (topping BBC1) I'm not a cat person, but I still rather enjoyed Jim Jarmusch's film about the feline audience on art and culture, particularly used the Royal College of Arts' costume Pravdina to illustrate the subject. Cats have huge eyes, he says, don't care about anyone else, like to go about at night, sleep during the day and don't like to be restrained. "They fit the artistic personality to a tee." Other cat series featuring include *Doris Lessing, Marlene Dietrich, Vivien Leigh, Roger McGough and Alan Phillips* (right), with sources ranging from Walt Disney and TS Eliot to Andrew Lloyd Webber and Leonardo da Vinci.



**DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY**

**BREAKING THE RULES** (11.20pm BBC2) The BBC seems to be developing this post-Newsnight slot into a space for unusual three-part documentary series which can be seen on consecutive nights. Last week saw *Frontiers of the Human Body* (part one, early evening); this week sees a short series concerning what happened when 18 young offenders, aged 18 to 20, volunteered to take part in an exchange organised by the probation services. Offenders from Britain and America swap for a year – and vice versa. The aim is to help the feel foot at different ways of dealing with conflict, as they say in social-services circles.



**FILM OF THE DAY**

**JIMMY REARROD** (10.45pm CB4) Fans of that great camp weepie *Stardust* will want somewhere else to go, rather than have that memories trampled all over by the *Saints*. John Goodman's *Saint* (11.45pm CB4) They could do worse than *Jimmy Rearrod*, a coming-of-age tale starring the real River Phoenix (right) and set in 1985 Chicago. Ironically, all things considered, James Dean is Phoenix's role model, as the 17-year-old tries against his restrictive, conservative father and dreams of running away to Hawaii to be with his object of his desire (*Meredith Salenger*). Funny, but a bit sentimental and full of convincing performances.



**LATE NIGHT CLARKSON**

**TOP GEAR GTI**

**UK HORIZONS**

# MONDAY TELEVISION

## ITV Carlton

## Channel 4

## Channel 5

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